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aussies*abroad*

By Mark Stavroulakis

English Premier League newcomers Wigan Athletic have secured the services of Socceroo midfielder **Josip Skoko.**

Wigan coach Paul Jewell saw a lot of promise in the Genclerbirligi player after his efforts during the Confederations Cup in Germany.

A work permit delayed Skoko's start to his English Premier League career but its all been sorted by the club and authorities to have given Josip the green light to play.

The 29-year-old will be the second Australian under the Wigan stable.

Goalkeeper John Filan is also at the club and he too celebrated a call-up into the Socceroos camp last week.

★★★★★

West Ham defender **Trent McClenahan** has secured a second loan spell at Milton Keynes Dons.

McClenahan spent the close of last season on loan with MK Dons and helped the club to retain their League One status.

The young Australian made eight appearances for Danny Wilson's side and is now due to head back to The National Hockey Stadium.

The 20-year-old has been allowed to build up his experience by Hammers boss Alan Pardew and will stay with MK Dons until the end of the year.

★★★★★

New AC Milan signing **Zeljko Kalac** insists he won't be content to sit on the bench this season.

Kalac has been signed as backup to Milan No1 Didia, but says: "Dida is a great goalkeeper and everyone knows this. I hope to prove myself a consistent player and of use to the squad when they need me.

"I would also like to put a little pressure on Dida and make him a work harder. Pressure is important in a winning mentality."

He added: "I had heard rumours of Milan's interest in me for a while and when a club like that is involved, you just can't wait for it to happen. Now everything is sorted out and I'll be at the Coach's disposal."

★★★★★

Yeovil Town stopper **Scott Guyett** has signed a one month loan deal with Conference outfit Aldershot Town.

The 29-year-old Australian scored his first goal of the season last week against Canvey Island.

He finalised talks about the move with Yeovil boss Gary Johnson.

Guyett joined the Glovers from Chester last summer, but made just 23 league and cup appearances as his season was hit by injuries.

★★★★★

Everton are being linked with a £3 million bid for Middlesbrough striker **Mark Viduka.**

The Mirror says Everton boss Dave Moyes is desperate to bolster his attacking options and has been making inquiries about the Australian striker as the transfer deadline looms.

Newcastle are the only possible opposition to Everton.

★★★★★

Brighton boss Mark McGhee has hailed Aussie midfielder **Paul Reid** as 'Mr Consistency'.

"I call him Mr Consistency. For a long time his performances have been right up there," he told the Argus.

The former Wollongong Wolves star has been a smash hit with Brighton and has easily been one of the club's best players.

★★★★★

Despite a slow start to their Championship campaign, Leicester City captain **Danny Tiatto** is backing the club to win promotion this season.

"As long as we keep competing and working hard for 90 minutes like we have we shouldn't have a problem," the Australian told BBC Radio Leicester.

"The manager wants a high tempo from the players all over the park.

"You have to be physically and mentally strong to get out of this division. We have a young side that's full of energy and wants to play in the Premiership."

★★★★★

Sydney Olympic youth striker **Louis Gekkas** is currently on trials with Greek First Division club Panionios.

The attacker was recommended by Olympic coach Michael Urukalo in the youngsters pursuit in cracking it in the professional league in Greece.

★★★★★

It wasn't a good week for Bankstown City Lions youngster **Matthew Pressello** upon his trials Holland.

Dutch 2nd Division side BV Veendam decided against signing the defender after failing to gain a work permit.

Pressello was 'devastated' at the news after impressing both coaches and players at Veendam.

To rub more salt into the wounds, Matthew suffered a foot injury in his final trial match with the club.

Veendam though have stated to Matthew that if he can track down a European passport via his grandparents from Italy, then the club would be interested in signing him up for next season.

★★★★★

Leicester City No2 Rob Kelly is confident midfielder **Patrick Kisnorbo** will soon be challenging for a starting place.

Kisnorbo is approaching full match-fitness after close-season knee surgery.

The 24-year-old was signed from Hearts in April pending the operation to cure a cartilage problem.

Leicester City captain Danny Tiatto was back to his best as he scored in his side's two-all draw to Crewe and was also named as one of the best players on the pitch

But the Australian's recovery was hampered by complications and he has yet to make an appearance for City, although second-in-command Kelly said Kisnorbo was close to completing his comeback.

Kelly said: "Patrick is coming along nicely. "He's out and about running and hopefully it won't be too long before he is back."

★★★★★

League One outfit Blackpool have completed the signing of Oldham goalkeeper **Les Pogliacomi.**

In a surprise move, Oldham boss Ronnie Moore has allowed Blackpool to take over the Australian's contract which runs until the end of the present campaign.

"There have been highs and lows but I am taking a lot of fond memories with me. I am sad to be going but life must go on and I need to be playing," Pogliacomi told the club's official website.

★★★★★

Aussie Motherwell striker **Scott McDonald** was involved in a nine-goal thriller against Dundee United over the weekend.

Dundee grabbed the three points with a 5-4 win but McDonald did manage to get on the scoresheet.

★★★★★

Leicester City skipper **Danny Tiatto** was back to his best after scoring in his side's two-all draw away to Crewe.

Leicester came from behind to snatch a point with Tiatto being named one of the best on the pitch.

★★★★★

Finally, well done to Blackburn defender **Lucas Neill** who grabbed headlines for a flawless performance against Fulham over the weekend

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Socceroos ready for Solomons test

Guus Hiddink has had his first real test over the side in selecting his starting eleven for his first game in charge against Pacific Island minnows the Solomon Islands on the 3rd of September.

Hiddink's 'concentration camp' in Holland was a real eye opener for the Dutchman who he, alongside assistant Graham Arnold were mixing and matching their ideal squad for the World Cup qualifiers.

ABSW can state that during their 4-day hit-out in the sleepy town of Hoenderloo, Hiddink was impressed with a few players and had this as a possible starting squad:

Mark Schwarzer, Brett Emerton, Craig Moore ©, Lucas Neill, Stan Lazaridis, Vince Grella, Jason Culina, Tim Cahill, Marco Bresciano, Harry Kewell and Mark Viduka.

Some surprises such as Scott Chipperfield, Ahmad Elrich, John Aloisi and Josip Skoko were left out of the squad as was Zeljko Kalac, but all could be involved in some way when the qualifiers kick-start at the glorious Aussie Stadium.

The players were very impressed with Hiddink's tactics and style and the buzz around the pitch was so much that all were ready for the hopeful task of getting to Germany next year.

Hiddink's involvement has come at the right time amidst claims he came too late.

The entire squad has been buoyed by Hiddink's appointment, but who wouldn't, Guus is ranked amongst the best three coaches in the world.

"From my side I enjoyed it very much, the experience with the players was what I needed.

"I feel comfortable with the players and I think this team is very committed (to making the World Cup)," Hiddink stated.

With Hiddink on board, there's hope once more.

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For further information and enquiries call John Romeo, Technical Director of the A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Youth Football Academy on 0412-808-114

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(First Grade & Under 21s)
Girls Youth League
(Under 12, 14 & 16)

Written applications are to be submitted to the
General Manager
jeremy@manlyunitedfc.com.au

Applications close on Friday 2nd September 2005

For further information contact the Office on
9982 6228

Melbourne Victory chief confirms $5M mark now met

Melbourne Victory chief Darren Gosling has revealed the club has secured the $5 million demanded by the Football Federation of Australia for an A-League licence.

"We have reached our target, which is fantastic," Gosling told The Age.

"We all said when we started — that it was going to be difficult to open doors because we didn't have a tangible product, but as time has gone on people can see what is happening. Doors have opened to investors."

FFA have taken a 25 per cent share in the club to the tune of $1.25 million, with another $1.75 million said to be coming from outside investors.

11 HOME GAMES – 11 CARS: ROAR PROMOTION AS GOOD AS IT GETZ

Queensland Roar FC Chairman, Mr John Ribot, has announced a major $150k match day promotion for all Roar home games in the inaugural Hyundai A-League season.

At every Suncorp Stadium home fixture one lucky supporter will drive away in a brand new Hyundai Getz.

Fans can enter by text messaging their name to 19 99 ROAR (7627) or by phoning 1900 99 ROAR (7627) and must be in attendance at the stadium on game days to claim their prize.

John Ribot said the promotion was the club's way of adding further value to the match day experience for Roar supporters.

"The Hyundai A-League is a new venture and we need the support of the Queensland public. Football Federation Australia have built this new league and Queensland Roar have built a new team, but for it to be successful we really need people to get behind us."

"Everyone who registers for the promotion and comes to Suncorp Stadium for the Roar home games will have a chance of driving away in a brand new car that day," Ribot said.

"I'm sure this will be an added incentive for people to come along and watch the team play."

"We want to get the biggest crowd on the opening weekend and make history for football in this country. The challenge is there for all.

Queenslanders to help forge another great football team for our state," he added.

Hyundai Motor Company Regional General Manager, Marc Beardmore, said the promotion further enhanced the relationship between Hyundai and Queensland Roar FC.

"We are proud to be associated with both Queensland Roar and the A-League. Hyundai are strong supporters of the game on a worldwide level and we are absolutely delighted that we have been able to assist in getting the Hyundai A-League off the ground."

"We hope the football community recognise just how hard FFA, Queensland Roar and Hyundai are working to provide them with not only a robust and professional league, but also the match day experience that has been lacking in the past."

Beardmore added: "I would like to echo John's (Ribot) sentiments and encourage the public to get on board with the Hyundai A-League and make it a success. The framework is there and all it needs now is for football supporters to get behind it and turn up in their droves."

Queensland Roar's Hyundai A-League campaign begins at 3.00pm on Sunday 28th August at Suncorp Stadium when they take on the New Zealand Knights.

Qld Roar Chairman John Ribot

Aurelio's football reflection

By Joe Russo

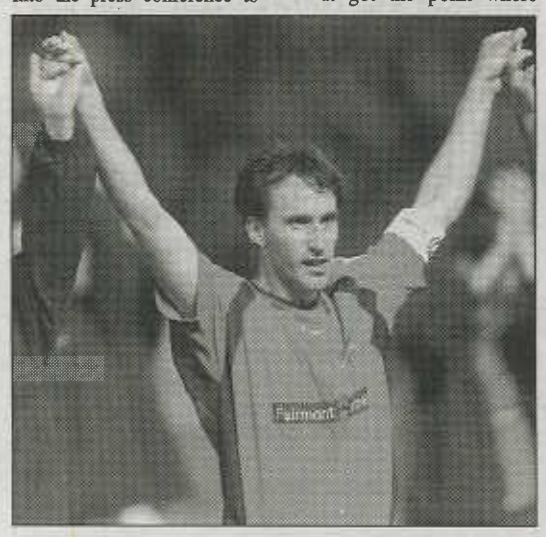
Former Socceroo Aurelio Vidmar, who made his debut for Australia against what was then Czechoslovakia in 1991, recently called it a day on a fabulous career.

After 44 A international matches and 17 goals for his country, the Adelaide United veteran decided that it was time to call it quits.

In a recent interview on 2KY's Football Fever, Vidmar outlined his thoughts on the historic decision.

"It wasn't all that tough making the decision, but the tough bit was when I walked into the press conference to announce the decision," he told listeners.

"I told the players on that Tuesday morning and then I had to race off to the press conference. However, when I went into that press conference it all got a bit emotional."



Adelaide's favourite son Aurelio Vidmar

Vidmar, who was a fantastic ambassador for the game in this country and abroad, was asked how he decided on the timing of his retirement.

"It was always going to be touch and go, even from October when the club called us in for contractual talks," he said.

"There was always a little bit of doubt about whether I could go the distance because of that long break [from the end of the old NSL].

"We have been training as a club since November and I had done a lot of work myself before that. However, when you look at it, the 15 month break wore me down.

"It got the point where Kossie [John Kosmina] and I talked about a lot of things and, although I was training ok, after a couple of games in that Pre-Season Cup I did feel that there was that little bit missing."

"The way the league is shaping up, it is a lot physically stronger and quicker and I thought 'well, it's the right time to move on'.

"On a couple of occasions the brain is telling you where you should be, but the body and the legs are not taking you. There is no room for complacency in this new competition, so I didn't think it was fair to myself or my team-mates to hang around."

So, hypothetically, if it was still the old NSL rather than the new A-League, would Vidmar have continued playing?

"Probably because in the old NSL not all 13 teams were super strong, but the way this league is now all eight teams will be a lot stronger."

For Vidmar, like many other former great players, the conundrum is what to do post-football.

However, Vidmar will still be heavily involved in football and, more particularly, as Assistant Coach to Kosmina at Adelaide United.

"Adelaide's preparation [for the A-League] has been pretty good and it's just a matter of getting into a bit of a routine," he told listeners.

Vidmar was part of a golden era in Adelaide football. Names such as Joe Mullen, Steve Maxwell, Milan Ivanovic, Alex Tobin, Charlie Villani, Robert Zabica and Sergio Melta, to name a few, were his team-mates and part of that era. What was it like to play in such a golden period in Australian football history?

"I was 19 years old when we won the Championship in 1986 with [coach] Zoran Matic [against Sydney Olympic] and all the above players," he proudly stated.

"I remember in 1986 everyone had to take a pay cut because Adelaide City was in a bit of financial trouble. I think I was only getting $30 and they were going to cut that!

"Everyone was prepared to take the pay cut for the club, but there was a big love for training and playing and that is why we got the results we did that year."

As a former Socceroo, who played at the highest level in European club competitions, Vidmar was asked who was the best coach for Australia that he played under.

"Everyone had their good and bad points," he diplomatically stated. "You are never going to find the perfect coach.

"The way Eddie Thomson went about organising his defence was probably second to none, even though I was never a real fan of the system he played with five defenders and one forward.

"When I first made it to the national team Frank Arok was starting to build a new squad, but I only had him for a very short time. When it came to motivating a team, he was very very good.

"Terry Venables also made a lasting impression because of the way he man-managed players and, for the short period he was there, he was unbelievable," he concluded.

Football Fever is on radio 2KY 1017AM every Sunday at 8.00pm.

Hiddink to pull no punches

Guus Hiddink has vowed a full strength Socceroos squad will be sent to swat aside the Solomon Islands next month in his first test as Australian football coach.

Hiddink said he would bring back the best possible side — including all the Socceroos' European-based stars — for the two-match Oceania World Cup qualifying series in Sydney and Honiara.

While the move could be seen as akin to crushing a grape with a sledgehammer, Hiddink said the short time between his takeover of the national side and the looming World Cup playoff against the fifth-placed South American side meant no risks would be taken.

"It is a huge task (making the World Cup finals) for all of us," Hiddink said.

"I think it is convenient to have all possible players for the games versus the Solomon Islands."

"I intend to bring the strongest squad in my view."

Hiddink will name a 20-man Socceroos squad early this week for the matches on September 3 and 6 and gained an insight into the size of the task awaiting him after this week's training camp in The Netherlands which wound up on Thursday.

Socceroo coach Guus Hiddink will field the strongest squad possible against the Solomons in his first hit-out

The Dutchman spoke individually to all his players about their commitment to the Socceroos' World Cup campaign, including injured Liverpool star Harry Kewell, and said all had pledged their full support to the build-up.

But Hiddink says he won't necessarily keep faith with the nucleus of players used under former coach Frank Farina's reign, which ended after three losses at the Confederations Cup in June.

The Socceroos' ageing defence particularly came under fire at the tournament.

"I didn't focus too much on past years - I focus on the way I like to play and the best players fitting into that position," Hiddink said.

Sydney FC looks for local help at WCC

Sydney FC's well travelled coach Pierre Littbarski

Sydney FC is looking at securing a high profile Japanese guest player to help boost the squad for the World Club Championships (WCC), to be held in Japan from December 11-18.

WCC rules state that squads of 23 are allowed to take part in the competition with one guest player permitted.

Sydney FC operates under a 20-man roster in the Hyundai A-League but like the WCC Qualifiers in Tahiti, the WCC Tournament in Japan is outside the Australian rules, allowing Sydney FC to add three players for the tournament.

Sydney FC Coach Pierre Littbarski spent 20 years as a player and coach in Japan and is well aware of the talent on offer in the host country and also aware that the presence of a local player will give Sydney FC "home ground advantage" as the Japanese are amongst the most loyal and passionate supporters in world football.

"The people of Japan are very passionate about their sport and if we have a high quality Japanese player in our team that will mean we are well supported and give us an advantage," Littbarski said.

"It may make the difference in the first game and allow us to get through to play Liverpool, which would be good for the Sydney club.

"I have been looking and speaking to people in Japan to get a player (Japanese guest player) and I think it will help us in the tournament."

Littbarski's foray into the Japanese player market is not just a smash and grab for the WCC as he believes there are numerous players in Japan that would settle into the Sydney FC squad for future seasons of the Hyundai A-League.

"The Japanese players are good players and of course, I am looking at Japanese players for Sydney FC," Littbarski said. "I have many contacts on Japan and we have spoken to a few people about it. There are players who would love to come to Australia but for now we have our 20 players and we will look to worry about the future a bit closer to that time."

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STERREY DEFEATS INDIA

By John Economos

THE NATIONAL TEAM OF FIJI, coached by former Marconi and Sydney Olympic NSL man, Lee Sterrey, last week defeated the touring side of India 2-1 in front of a boisterous crowd of over 12,000 in the nation's capital of Suva.

Just a few days earlier, at Lautoka, Sterrey's extra fit Fijian side had again run out winners, this time by 1-0 through a penaltyscored by veteran striker, Esala Masi.

The always keen as mustard Sterrey stated to *ABSW*. "It boosted our F.I.F.A. rankings from 141 to 137. They were great results for us as we had only 10 days together in camp and one of my key players, (Salesh Kumar), joined my squad from New Zealand just two days before the first match.

Sterrey continued: "Esala Masi also scored the winner in the second match with an absolute screaming 30 metre bomb in the 65min, as this veteran striker superbly led my team by example in both games against the Indians. Vidoui scored our first goal.

"This was my first series with the Senior national team of Fiji which now has become my main priority .

"I was very proud of our performance. India had travelled to Pakistan four weeks ago to play some friendlies and on arrival home, they went straight into camp for this series in Fiji".

Sterrey now has an impressive track record handling the four Fijian National teams from the Under 17s, Youth, Olympic and Senior side. His record in 11 games (including Oceania Qualifiers plus this series), stands at six wins, two draws and three losses.

LEE STERREY: National Coach of Fiji.

The Fijian National coach flew back into Australia last Friday lunchtime and plans to spend nine days relaxing up at Newcastle and then back down in Sydney before returning to Fiji.

PENRITH NEPEAN UNITED

PENRITH NEPEAN UNITED

Requires Coaches for Season 2006
for the following.
● Grade 20 Mens Coach ● Premier Youth League (Boys)
● Grades U/13 to U/18

Womens Super League
● 1st Grade & U/20's ● Girls Youth League
● Grades U/12,U/14 & U/16

All applicants must meet Soccer NSW Coaching Accreditation guidelines

For further information
Men's John Todd Mobile 0418-969540
Boys Youth League Danny Abboud Mobile 0417-228595
Womens/Girls Erris Shiels Mobile 0414-900512
Resume of Coaching/Playing experience can be directed to:
Penrith Nepean United
PO Box 4257
Penrith Plaza 2751
or email to jtodd@penrithsmallbiz.com.au
<mailto:jtodd@penrithsmallbiz.com.au>

Applications Close 29th August 2005

FRASER PARK
FOOTBALL CLUB
Season 2006
Coaches and Support Staff

Fraser Park FC is well established Soccer NSW State League Club which has embarked on an exciting five (5) year plan to become the leader in Football Development in NSW. With a very ambitious plan in place, we want to offer a pathway to all aspiring players from grass roots through to the highest level in Australia and Overseas.

With emphasis on PLAYER DEVELOPMENT we now seek the services of highly motivated people with the same philosophy to join us on our journey.

To build on a successful season 2005 we want to fill the following positions:

Coaching Staff
- Youth League Coaches for NSW Super Youth League ages 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18.
- Goalkeeping Coach all teams.
- Elite Player Academy coaches for various ages.
- Junior Academy coaches for academy catering for ages 7 to 10.
- Coaches with suitable qualifications only need apply.
- We are also looking for up and coming coaches who want to learn, develop and gain qualifications with the club to take on assistants positions.

Support Staff
- Youth Leauge convener and managers.
- Academy managers and support staff
- Support staff in all areas

Many of the above positions come with an attractive remuneration package for the apropriate candidates.

To register your application or interest please email letter and resume direct to Football Technical Director on wsa_au@hotmail.com.
Enquiries please contact Vince Colagiuri on 0400 324432 for coaching positions, or Manuel Leon on 0407 415410 for all other positions.

Closing date 2nd September 2005

ABSW CAREER OPPORTUNITY

In the next few weeks the *Australian & British Soccer Weekly* will be advertising a part-time position for Sub-Editor in one of Australia's leading football magazines.

Until it becomes more apparent, people who have an extensive knowledge on the game, have tertiary qualifications and must have an input in both Quark Express and all Microsoft Office programs to be able to gain this new to be vacant spot.

It's a Sydney based paper thus the selected person will need to be from Sydney.

The selected person will only need to appear in the offices, two days maximum, thus being a part-time spot.

Again we do stress that you MUST be a keen supporter of the sport.

An official advertisement will appear in the paper in the next few weeks but those keen football buffs interested, could you please send your CV's early to absw@foreignlanguage.com .au in alerting your keen interest and mark it to the attention of Mark Stavroulakis – Sub Editor Postion.

Don't call us, we'll call you!

-ABSW Crew

SOCCER

SYDNEY OLYMPIC BACK ON THE BIG SCREEN

VIDEO NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Peter Kambounias and the The Riverside Bellevue (Sydney Olympic Sporting Club) have organised a Video Night to help raise funds for Sydney Olympic Soccer Club.

Sydney Olympic fans will be able to re-live most of the great moments of the club since 1989. This is a great chance for fans to get together and enjoy some past glories as well as raise some funds for Sydney Olympic Football Club.

The details of the night are:

Date: Friday 9th September 2005
Venue: The Riverside Bellevue (Sydney Olympic Sporting Club)
64 Tennent Parade
HURLSTONE PARK
Time: 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start (sharp) concluding at 1.00am.
There will be a 30 minute intermission.
Cost: $20 entry

Food and drinks available separately at discounted prices courtesy of The Riverside Bellevue Management.

Tickets: Tickets are now available from two venues prior to the night.

- **Riverside Bellevue (Sydney Olympic Sporting Club)**

64 Tennent Pde, Hurstone Park) every Wednesday night from 6.30pm – 9.00pm. Ask/look for Peter Kambounias

- **Helen's Florist: 77 Thompson St, Earlwood (9718 9933)**

Tickets available only during business hours. Ask for Georgina or Maria.

- **Tickets will also be available at the door on the night but fans are strongly encouraged to pre-purchase tickets to avoid dissapointment.**

Victorian Premier League

Oakleigh Annihilate Preston

By Nick Dennis

The elimination finals came a week early when Oakleigh hammered Preston 5-0 to extend their season at least another week while ending Preston's.

The scoreline, however, was not a true indicator of a game in which Oakleigh keeper Stuart Webster was the Man of the Match with an outstanding performance in goal.

Going into this all-important final round of the home and away season, Oakleigh had to win to stay alive in 2005, whereas Preston just needed a draw to ensure they would be playing finals football.

However the entire complexion of the game changed after just 30 seconds of play. With the Preston players still to settle, Oakleigh midfielder Anthony Pelikan took advantage of his opponents' lapse in concentration. Finding space in the centre of the park, and with time to pick his target, he struck firmly from 30 metres to beat the despairing dive of Preston keeper Daniel Zilic.

Now it was Preston who needed to score, and immediately began launching wave after wave of attack. Preston's first chance came when their top scorer, John Sapazovski, beat the offside trap.

However with just the keeper barring his way to goal he missed everything.

A stinging shot from Preston midfielder Zia Younan from 25 metres brought off a great save from Webster, punching the ball away for a corner.

Then three minutes later Sapazovski did well in the box to draw the keeper, got the ball away to strike partner Oksuz, but the ball bounced awkwardly and Oksuz's miscued shot went over the bar.

In the 25th minute Younan unleashed a great through ball that put Oksuz one-on-one with the keeper.

Again Webster produced an excellent stop, and Sapazovski was unable to finish with the rebound.

Preston were to immediately rue their missed chances, as up the other end a clinical Oakleigh converted their second goal.

Juan Nilo showed off his Latin American skills, skipping past a defender and crossing into the box where an unmarked George Goutzioulis slotted the ball past the keeper to make it 2-0.

A shell-shocked Preston almost conceded a third five minutes later, but keeper Daniel Zilic did well to get down low and save Sam Poutakidis's shot. From Pelikan's corner, Cannons striker Angelo Goutzioulis was left unmarked but his powerful header was just off target.

As the game approached half-time, Younan produced another precise through ball that fell for Sapazovski, but again he put his shot wide.

A few minutes later, Sapazovski played a short through ball for Oksuz, but Webster anticipated well to dive at the ball and cut out the danger.

Preston came out in the second half with 45 minutes to salvage their season.

Given the number of chances they had been creating, pinning back a two-goal lead was hardly mission impossible.

However a comeback looked doomed in the 50th minute when Oakleigh made it 3-0. A dangerous Nick Tolios free kick into the box was only cleared as far as Angelo Goutzioulis who from the edge of the area slammed the ball home.

Webster produced yet another great stop when Sapazovski blasted the ball at him from five metres out. The ball fell again for Sapazovski but this time George Goutzioulis charged down his shot.

The Preston captain, so important to his team's fortunes, continued a recent barren goal-scoring patch with no goals in the last six games. Not coincidentally his team has struggled to get results in that period.

The two teams' contrast in fortune in front of goal couldn't have been better illustrated a minute later. While Preston were finding it impossible to get the ball into the back of the net, Oakleigh made it 4-0 with their next attack. George Goutzioulis set up Juan Nilo who from ten metres and a tight angle chipped the keeper to score.

A demoralised Preston, their season in tatters, conceded a fifth goal two minutes later.

Nilo again was in the thick of things, beating a defender down the left wing then setting up George Goutzioulis who shot truly to register his second goal of the afternoon.

Oakleigh threatened to humiliate Preston even further as they found space all over the park.

Substitute midfielder Raj Kumar had a drive from 25 metres that only just missed the target, and then Angelo Goutzioulis tried to lob the keeper but his shot went just over.

With the result now a foregone conclusion, Preston looked to at least improve their goal difference, which might still be a factor in deciding their season. Zia Younan had a valiant effort with a powerful drive from the edge of a crowded box.

With five minutes remaining, Juan Nilo almost got his second for the afternoon, after rounding the keeper, only for his shot to be cleared off the line by defender Peco Dimovski.

Oakleigh's victory means they will be playing finals football for the second season in a row.

They will be hoping to improve on last season's efforts when they lost both their finals.

For Preston it continues what has been a slow but steady decline.

They miss out on finals action for the first time since 2001, a highly successful period that saw them win a championship in 2002 and a minor premiership in 2003.

VPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Green Gully Cavaliers	**26**	**13**	**10**	**3**	**31**	**18**	**49**
Heidelberg United	**26**	**13**	**8**	**5**	**44**	**24**	**47**
South Melbourne	**26**	**13**	**7**	**6**	**30**	**17**	**46**
Fawkner-Whittlesea	**26**	**12**	**7**	**7**	**47**	**37**	**43**
Oakleigh Cannons	**26**	**11**	**7**	**8**	**50**	**32**	**40**
Altona Magic	**26**	**10**	**10**	**6**	**40**	**33**	**40**
Preston Lions	26	10	9	7	40	34	39
Essendon Royals	26	10	7	9	33	30	37
Melbourne Knights	26	8	9	9	29	34	33
Bulleen Zebras	26	6	10	10	22	27	28
Frankston Pines	26	7	7	12	28	35	28
Sunshine Georgies	26	6	6	14	29	47	24
St Albans Saints	**26**	**6**	**5**	**15**	**27**	**45**	**23**
Bentleigh Greens	**26**	**4**	**4**	**18**	**19**	**56**	**16**

VPL RESULTS ROUND 26

Frankston Pines 3
Fawkner-Whittlesea 3

Bulleen Zebras 2
Essendon Royals 0

Oakleigh Cannons 5
Preston Lions 0

Melbourne Knights 0
Sunshine George Cross 0

Heidelberg United 1
St Albans Saints 0

Altona Magic 0
Green Gully Cavaliers 0

South Melbourne 3
Bentleigh Greens 1

St Albans & Bentleigh Greens relegated

VPL TOP SCORERS

15 goals - M Curcija (ER)

10 goals: N Marinos (HU), J Sapazovski (PL), Z Petrevski, M Tsiorlas (F-W)

9 goals: T Neceski (SGX), G Goutzioulis (OC)

8 goals: S Oksuz (PL), V Coveny (SM), Nathan Caldwell (MK), J Nilo (OC)

SUMMARY
by Nick Dennis

Melbourne Knights 0
Sunshine George Cross 0

A gutsy Sunshine held on to a 0-0 draw at Knights Stadium on Sunday afternoon, a result that was enough to see them avoid a return to the State League after just a season in the top flight.

Going into the game they were in the relegation position, but the point from the draw enabled them to leapfrog St Albans on the table.

It has been a long and mainly forgettable season for both teams.

For the Melbourne Knights the highlights were a first-ever victory at Bob Jane Stadium over rivals South Melbourne, and defeating eventual Minor Premiers Green Gully in May to win the Millennium Cup.

Sunshine started the season with some good results, and after Round 7 were sitting in third place on the table.

However a poor second half of the season that saw them win one out of thirteen games almost cost them a spot in the Premier League.

Altona Magic 0
Green Gully Cavaliers 0

A scoreless draw was enough for Altona to cling to sixth position and a place in the finals.

In a game of limited goalscoring opportunites, both teams were evenly matched, and in the end both seemed content with the draw.

For Green Gully there was little bearing on the result, having sewn up the Minor Premiership the previous week.

However the result maintains their formidable record of not having lost to any of the other finals contenders this season.

Altona, last year's Grand Finalists, have the job ahead of them if they want to go one better this year.

However, they will take heart from the fact that they made last year's Grand Final coming from a similar position.

Heidelberg United 1
St Albans 0

An understrength Heidelberg ground out a 1-0 victory over a desperate St Albans who needed a result to avoid relegation for the first time in the club's proud history.

The Bergers went into the game missing several key players including top-scorer Nick Marinos and exciting winger Yusuf Yusuf.

They faced an in-form St Albans team who a month ago had seemed doomed to relegation but had won three of its last four games as they acted out their version of The Great Escape.

Heidelberg's goal came in the 20th minute, a long range drive from club veteran Eric Vassiliadis.

They then spent the remaining 70 minutes tenaciously holding out St Albans.

As the game wore on and news came through that other results were not going St Albans' way, the Saints pressed even more for an elusive goal.

They had at least half a dozen chances to score the goal that would save them from relegation but their finishing let them down.

South Melbourne 3
Bentleigh Greens 1

An already relegated Bentleigh's season of misery limped to an end when they were defeated 3-1 away to South Melbourne.

The result also means that South are rewarded with a home final, although it wasn't enough to earn them a top two spot and the double-chance.

South got off to a flying start with Fernando DeMoraes scoring in the opening fifteen minutes.

Not long after Bentleigh were down 2-0 when they conceded an embarrassing own goal, a defender's back header that completely wrong footed the keeper.

South looked like they might run up a cricket score, however the Greens got a goal back just before half-time.

One of their few shining lights in a dismal year has been their Nigerian import, Izunna Chukwuka, who scored a fine individual goal. Despite playing less than half a season he finished as the Greens' top scorer.

Midway through the second half, Robbie Cattanach scored for South to make it 3-1 and seal the victory.

The NSW Premier League Player of the Year, after an initial goal-scoring drought, has now scored in consecutive games.

Bulleen Zebras 2
Essendon Royals 0

The reigning champions finished off a forgettable season on a high note, with their 2-0 defeat of finals contenders Essendon.

Essendon went into the game with a slim hope of making the finals – as long as they won and other results went their way.

But the slim hope was extinguished by half-time as Bulleen went to a two-nil lead.

Bulleen's goals came from midfielder Steve Martin, who took the honour as club leading scorer for 2005, and ex-Northern Spirit defender Simon Bell, scoring his first goal for the club.

Frankston Pines 3
Fawkner-Whittlesea 3

Frankston, who hadn't scored in their previous two games, suddenly produced a goal-feast as they gave finalists Fawkner-Whittlesea a scare in an entertaining final round fixture at Monterey Reserve.

Fawkner, with only a very slim chance of finishing in the top two, went into the game without some key players, and it looked as if Frankston might make them pay.

However each time Frankston hit the lead Fawkner showed their never-say-die qualities by drawing level.

Scorers for Frankston were Cameron Leopold, Boris Ovcin and Matthew Parks.

For Fawkner, Frank Tramontana scored one, while Nana Addo in just his third appearance this season scored a double.

How the Vodafone Premier League Final Series Works

Week 1: 1st v 2nd in Qualifying Final (QF).
3rd v 6th and 4th v 5th in Elimination Finals, with the losers eliminated.

Week 2: 1st Semi Final: Loser of QF v 2nd highest ranked winner of Elimination Finals.
Winner goes to Preliminary Final, loser is eliminated.

2nd Semi Final: Winner of QF v highest ranked winner of Elimination Finals. Winner goes straight to Grand Final, loser to Preliminary Final.

Week 3: Preliminary Final: Loser 2nd SF v Winner 1st SF. Winner goes to Grand Final, loser is eliminated.

Week 4: Grand Final

VPL Finals Fixtures

Elimination Final 1
South Melbourne v Altona Magic, Bob Jane Stadium, Saturday 27 Aug

Elimination Final 2
Fawkner-Whittlesea v Oakleigh, Epping Stadium, Friday 26 Aug

Qualifying Final
Green Gully v Heidelberg, Green Gully Reserve, Sunday 28 Aug

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BRISBANE Premier League

Final round set to decide winner

Pine Rivers' bid to win the Brisbane premier league championship ended at Wendy Alison Park on Saturday night with title contenders Rochedale Rovers toughing out a hard fought 1-nil win.

Rochedale Rovers and Palm Beach will now battle for the championship in the season's last game next Saturday with the Gold Coast side holding slight favouritism with its better goal difference.

Both sides are locked on 46 points and the goal difference could play a vital role.

Palm Beach have a hard game against Taringa Rovers at Jack Speare Park while Rochedale will have the home advantage against Wynnum Wolves in the championship decider.

In the relegation battle, University are anchored at the foot of the table on 15 points, only one point behind Toowoomba with the battle for a place in next year's first division on the line.

University went down 2-1 to Easts while Toowoomba picked up a valuable point in a 1-all draw with Mitchelton.

Brisbane City escaped relegation, moving four points clear off the bottom with a 4-nil win over Wynnum Wolves.

University has a tougher final game next week against Pine Rivers, who will be desperate to return to winning form before the finals while Toowoomba has a hard away game against Souths.

Easts will try to avoid relegation at home at Heath Park against Brisbane City on Saturday night.

At Wendy Alison Park, Rochedale Rovers' Greg Thomas scored the only goal of the game in the second half to earn three valuable points and to keep it in the premiership hunt.

Rochedale coach Kieran Cooper was delighted with the result and will know exactly what is required to take the championship title when they play Brisbane Wolves as their match is scheduled later than Palm Beach's clash with Taringa next weekend.

"We will know exactly what we need and no matter what we will give it a go, " Cooper said.

"Pine Rivers threw everything they had at us at the end there and we held on well.

"Our keeper was sensational in those last few minutes and while neither team deserved to lose that's the way it goes sometimes."

However, Cooper did concede that Rivers were marginally better in the opening half.

"They played well and had us on the back foot. We didn't get many opportunities but scrapped well in defence," Cooper said.

Cooper's praise for his keeper, Mario Aparicio, followed several brilliant saves in the dying minutes.

Rivers coach Clayton Koch was philosophical about the loss.

"I was real pleased with our effort. It was a tight contest as expected and we had chances but just couldn't convert," Koch said.

"Saying that thought, their keeper made two or three great saves out there.

"We are still in with a chance of silverware with the Premier Cup Final in two weeks and then we are still in the mix for the finals. We still have plenty to play for," he said.

In the first half, Koji Kanagawa went closest with a header for Pine Rivers after ten minutes before the game settled down into an arm wrestle.

Rochedale got a few chances from Ian Hutchison and Cameron Watson before the break.

The second half was also very even with very few breaks and chances with both defences doing well.

It took a typically classy and clinical first-time finish from Thomas, the club's leading scorer, to put Rochedale in front with ten minutes to go.

The ball was swung over from the right and Thomas showed why he is amongst the competition's leading marksmen with his finish that sent the visiting bench and supporters delirious.

The setback didn't deter the home side which went searching for an equaliser before time ran out.

Palm Beach stayed at the top of the table with a 3-nil win over Souths at Mallawa Drive.

The first goal for the Sharks came after 25 minutes with John Costello's hard work providing Daniel Fung with his first of two for the night.

The Sharks held a slender 1-nil lead and the match was still for the taking as South's dominated the final minutes of the first half giving them some hope for the second half.

But the Sharks midfield of Brad Ditton and David Dodd combined well to shut out Souths again in the second half.

Palm Beach went 2-nil in front when John Costello began a well worked move, playing a ball to Ditton who put Costello into space before an incisive through ball put Matt Hilton in range and he made no mistake from the edge of the area.

A third goal soon sealed the match for the Sharks when Ditton worked the ball up field with Gavin Peddle who eventually played a ball into Fung who controlled and smashed his shot past Sean Falkenhagen for a double.

Palm Beach coach Karl Herdle won't be taking anything for granted against Taringa next week.

"Taringa is going to be extremely hard next weekend," Herdle said.

"All the top teams have been doing it tough against them over recent weeks.

"They are a young side that doesn't give up and they play with a lot of enthusiasm and Alan Waller has them well organised for a bunch of young guys and they wont give up next week."

Herdle was pleased with his side's performance against the injury riddled Souths.

"I told the guys to put them under pressure from the kick off and see how they handle it and it paid off for us," he said.

University hopes of staying in premier league slipped up badly against Easts after conceding the opening goal after only seven minutes.

Jeff Dyne showed great speed to keep the ball in play on the right wing before delivering a cross to the near post for Joachim Klein to score.

The evenly matched first half swung the Tigers favour with a second goal after 18 minutes from Steve Fern who finished off a Michael Thompson cross.

University lifted a gear as expected in the second half and put the Tigers defence under pressure with numerous attacking raids.

However, they had to rely on a penalty from Steve Unsworth to reduce Easts lead.

Easts coach Graham Binney told his players at half time that Uni would lift in the second half and instigated a successful plan to defend.

"We knew they were going to throw men forward so we just had to be prepared to defend well," Binney said.

"It wasn't pretty. It was desperate football but we played good football in patches and we got away with a win. We now hold the fate of our season in our own hands in next week's match with Brisbane City," he said.

PREMIER LEAGUE

Taringa Rovers	0
Brisbane Strikers	0
	Half-time 0-0
Palm Beach	3
(Fung 2, Hilton)	
Souths United	0
	Half-time 1-0
Toowoomba Raiders	1
(Reardon)	
Mitchelton	1
(Balzat)	Half-time 1-0
Pine Rivers	0
Rochedale Rovers	1
(Thomas)	Half-time 0-0
Eastern Suburbs	2
(Klein, Fern)	
Uniof QLD	1
(Unsworth)	Half-time 2-0
Brisbane City	4
(Capinnini, Farinazzo 2, Schofield)	
Brisbane Wolves	0
	Half-time 1-0

Points: Palm Beach 46, Rochedale Rovers 46, Pine Rivers 41, Strikers 41, Souths 38, Taringa 36, Brisbane Wolves 23, Mitchelton 23, Brisbane City 19, Easts 17, Toowoomba 16, Uni of Qld 15

Mariners deserve more: McKinna

Preseason Cup champs Central Coast Mariners insist they deserve top-billing alongside favourites Sydney FC for this season's A-League title.

Mariners coach Lawrie McKinna told the Daily Telegraph: "We can give this new league competition a real shake.

"We've made two finals now and it's time everyone took us more seriously.

"When I put this team together the cynics were saying that we wouldn't do well because I brought local players to the club and didn't worry about signing players from overseas.

"I think we deserve some credit for what we have achieved. "We have versatile players who can play in a number of positions. I believe that will put us in good stead for the league.

"We are playing a good brand of football. When we win the ball we attack with a lot of will."

The Mariners face Perth Glory in their A-League opener and McKinna added:

"The fact that we beat Perth last night I feel will be playing on their minds on Friday, although they will have a couple of players coming back."

Nick Mrdja will be a key player missing in the Mariners squad while for the Glory, English marquee import Brian Deane is set to make his debut against McKinna's side.

For more news on the QLD Premer League
click on to
www.
brisbanemenssoccer.com.au
for all the latest results-fixtures and standings

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Sunday Football A Hit

Sunday football has proved to be quite a hit with the many fans down Illawarra way this year.

The recent top-of-the-table clash between Cringila Lions and Tarrawanna produced great entertainment with plenty of goalmouth action.

At Crehan Park Cringila, the atmosphere was electric with players and spectators enjoying the fine facilities including a smooth playing surface.

Without naming individuals, both sides deserve praise for commitment and effort.

Cringila coach Phil Carr as expected had his charges primed for the big occasion while his opponent coach Gary Hatton knew that his side was in for a torrid time.

On the competition table, both are just one point adrift and 3 and 4 points off the competition leaders Dandaloo.

A win and three points would have reduced the points-margin considerably.

Much was at stake and both sides were aware of it, knowing now only three more rounds are to be played before the competition closes on 3rd September 2005.

Cringila Lions still need to overcome Wollongong Olympic, Warilla Wanderers and South Coast United.

Tarrawanna will battle Dapto, Picton Rangers and Albion Park White Eagles.

A slip-up could result in a drop down the ladder while success keeps both in contention for a title challenge, hoping Dandaloo drop some points next.

First Division Photo finish

The race for the two top spots eligible for promotion to Premier League could not be any closer.

Only 3 and 4 points separate third and fourth placed sides with three more matches to go.

In previous years the champion and second team were already decided long before the end and last game played.

This time the excitement continues until completion of round 26 on 3rd September.

Fernhill leads with one point ahead of Shellharbour Workers, followed by Wollongong United and Shellharbour City.

Even fifth Woonona are still in the chase with a slim chance.

The experts see Fernhill and Shellharbour Workers to win the top two places and gain promotion.

Weekend Football Results round 24 – Premier League –

Warilla Wanderers v Port Kembla 2:1, Wollongong Olympic v Cringila Lions 0:1, Tarrawanna v Dapto 3:0, Balgownie Rangers v Picton Rangers 1:4, Kemblawarra v Albion Park White Eagles 0:0, Coniston Lions v Bulli 2:1, South Coast United v Dandaloo 1:3

First Division – Berkeley v Highlands 3:1, University v Shellharbour Workers 1:3 new leaders, Helensburgh v Ruse 3:2, Shellharbour City v Corrimal Rangers 2:2, Bellambi v Woonona 0:2, Fernhill v Wollongong United 0:2, Kiama v West 1:0

IFA Football Draw round 25 Weekend 27/8/05 Premier League

Port Kembla v South Coast United, Cringila Lions v Warilla Wanderers, Dapto v Wollongong Olympic, Picton Rangers v Tarrawanna, Albion Park White Eagles v Balgownie Rangers, Bulli v Kemblawarra, Coniston Lions v Dandaloo.

First Division – Berkeley v Kiama, West v Fernhill, Wollongong United v Bellambi, Woonona v Shellharbour City, Corrimal Rangers v Helensburgh, Ruse v University, Shellharbour Workers v Highlands United.

Mariners win on and off the field

Scotsman Lawrie McKinna was grinning from ear to ear after his side picked up the Pre-season cup over the weekend against the Glory.

Not only was his side the winner on the field, but I believe they were firm winners off it.

The media has suggested that the crowd of 6609 was a really poor turnout, but I beg to differ.

Sure, I believe there should have been more but did they state that the six thousand plus that was on hand to see the match at the Coast were all paid customers?

Some people forget that a few clubs overstretched their limit in giving away a few too many freebies in recent matches; the Coast did none of this.

If they can achieve a six-thousand plus crowd average, paid mind you, on a rainy day, imagine it when summer is beaming in the heart of the Coast.

Well done Mariners.

Mariners can win this

Wilkinson & Clark believe in the dream

Here's is a of course a hoax transcript that was seen here between Mariners players Alex Wilkinson (left) and Andrew Clark (right) after their Pre-season cup win over the Glory last Saturday afternoon.

Clark: "Mate we did it, we really did it – I reckon we can go all the way this year"

Wilkinson: "I believe so to Mate, just don't stand so close to me, I know there's a lot of love here but come on mate".

Clark: "That's it, as the main fitness man of this side, that's double push-ups, sit-ups and extra laps for you Wilko".

In all seriousness though, well done lads, keep the good work up, both Wilkinson and Clarke played a pivotal role in Saturday's clash.

Deane has made it

A week after ABSW made an enquiry on where the hell was Perth Glory's main striker and marquee star Brian Deane, came the news that all was well when he touched down in Perth last Monday.

A very relieved Steve McMahon was one happy man as the big number 9 will be on hand in playing his first match for the club against the Mariners this Friday.

Mrdja out!

After a stunning start to his A-League season with the Mariners, gun-ho marksman Nick Mrdja picked up a niggling knee injury 15 minutes into the Glory match and will now miss the first 2 A-League matches.

A damaging blow for McKinna and his squad, expect Stewart Petrie and Adam Kwasnik to hopefully step up as capable replacements for the former Glory striker.

Thorpedo's the man for Sydney

Yet again, Sydney FC has shown just why they've been labeled the 'Bling Bling' team of the competition.

As part of its promotional campaign of being the most recognizable team of the A-League in the up and coming World Club Championships in Japan, Sydney FC will not only adopt a superstar Japanese striker for the tournament, but Australian swimming sensation Ian Thorpe could act as the club's ambassador during the games.

Thorpe has already been listed as one of the club's most famous supporters and due to his fame in Japan could well become a marketing dream for Sydney.

Not only that, but the Sydney media made it public last weekend that one of its major shareholders in actor Anthony LaPaglia is all but set to be relocating his acting shifts in 'Without a trace' to Tokyo which will coincide with Sydney FC's dream tournament run.

What LaPaglia wants to do is shoot an episode in Japan which will feature a few Sydney FC boys plus German coach Pierre Littbarski, all for promoting his new found love!

Marketing takes Soccernet by storm

Whilst surfing the internet on probably the most popular football site on the planet in www.soccernet.com, I stumbled across an advertisement that took me by surprise.

An add comprising of our very own A-League was hoisted high on the site with a link to its official web address, well done once more to the FFA for this great marketing idea!

Hiddink sets the scene

In Guus there's hope for our World Cup dreams.

That is the word around the street as thousands of Socceroo fans await in anticipation on the September 3rd clash against Pacific minnows the Solomon Islands.

Hiddink will be bringing his no nonsense attitude along with the strongest squad he can select against the Solomons which is a very pleasing and comforting aspect for all the fans.

The likes of Cahill, Bresciano, Viduka, Neill, Grella, Culina and Skoko to name a few will be out to here to play against the Solomons best.

An interesting point to state in this is that the Islanders will have a trick or two up their sleeve in new coach and Brazilian Airton Andriolli.

Airton was a former NSL player and played for the likes of West Adelaide before returning to his native Brazil.

It was good to see that all the Socceroo lads enjoyed Guus' 'Concentration Camp' and that his leadership skills and expertise at top level football will be used as a guide in helping the Australians qualify for 2006.

Discipline in the team will be a key change and factor in Guus' dealings, and thank goodness he's brought allot of that with him as his predecessor failed to do so.

dressing sheds

by Mark Stavroulakis

Its all systems GO!

It's finally here.

Football, the real deal – Australian style

The wait is finally over, get your scarves, beanies, horns and flags and bring them out to Perth, Newcastle, Queensland and Sydney as this week heralds a new beginning for the Australian round ball game.

After a year of total football starvation, our good friends at the FFA with Frank Lowy holding the key have kick-started a new phenomenon set to hit our shores – the A-League.

With all the glitz and glamour that we've seen marketed by the FFA via the amazing T.V. commercial that caught many people's attention comes the real thing this Friday.

Folks, the drought has finished, football is back, and its back, better than ever.

All this nonsense about the league not kicking off and that it only has a year then its done is total hogwash.

There have been various comments made in the media that this new A-League is nothing different to that of the old NSL. What nonsense.

Already, I have seen an improvement in all teams, whether it be from Sydney or New Zealand, rest assured there will be no Morwell Falcons sides here.

As avid football fans, the word 'embrace' must come into the equation in helping out the game.

Not only do we need quality football which I am sure the players will produce, but we need the supporters to follow.

It's no use saying that 'its good Australia have a domestic league back on track and for that I will not be watching it', wrong mentality, you people reading, must read this.

Football is a world sport, and a wonderful one at that.

For so long, fans have complained about the way the game has been run in this nation, they've cried for blood about various board members running the show here, they've slated teams that should never have been there.

Now its 2005, a different era where football has started on a clean plate.

Its time the football fan gives back something to the Australian game, and that's watching and supporting your club.

No matter what background you are, football is the language being sent here and nothing else.

The late Johnny Warren, a keen advocate of this new A-League would no doubt have been willing all Australian football fans in rejoicing this new set-up.

I for one am excited, and I know this will be a year not to forget in the Australian game.

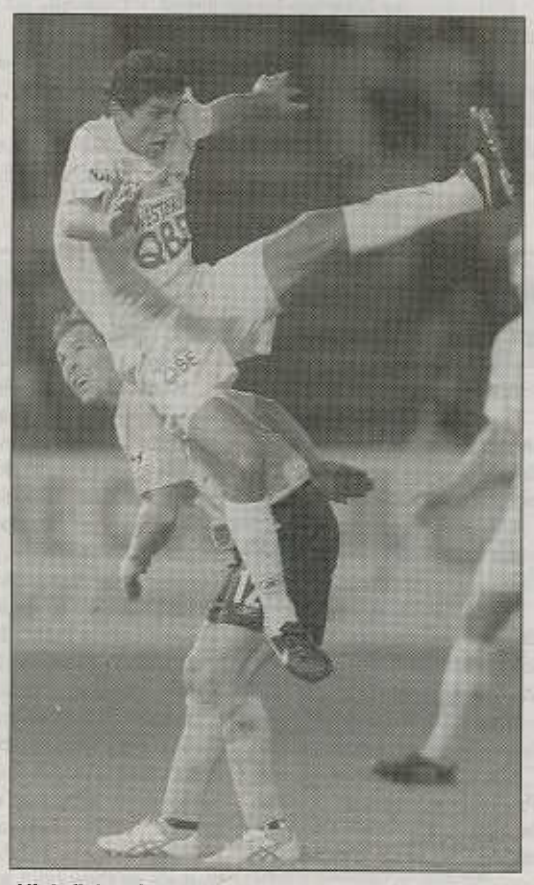
Go you Victory, Glory, Roar, Knights, Adelaide, Jets, Mariners and of course Sydney FC.

Its time the real game steps up to the plate and shows the people of Australia what football really is and means.

Like the famous slogan, "Its football, but not as you know it".

By the end of this I hope all of you are now cheering on a certain A-League match for the weekend.

If not, shame on you….but there's 20 more weeks to go so get out there and support the number one game in the world.



High flying A-League action set to grip the nation here with Simon Colosimo claiming an AFL mark on Mariners striker Stewart Petrie (left)

LITTBARSKI PONDERS 3-PRONGED ATTACK

Sydney FC's international strike duo Dwight Yorke and Sasho Petrovski have returned home ready to join forces with Socceroo David Zdrilic as Coach Pierre Littbarski contemplates his options, including a three-pronged striking blitz on Melbourne Victory in the Hyundai A League opener at Aussie Stadium this Sunday.

Yorke was part of Trinidad & Tobago's 0-1 loss to the USA in a World Cup Qualifier in Connecticut while Petrovski was in Holland with the Australian Team under new boss Guus Hiddink, a camp Zdrilic missed due to injury.

With Yorke and Petrovski back and Zdrilic returning from injury last weekend, Littbarski will have to leave one player on the bench or employ a three-pronged attack against Melbourne Victory when the two sides start their A-League season on Sunday .

"We have three very good strikers, all international class, and the option is there to play with the three in the front," Littbarski said.

"That would give any team some problems but it is one of the options I have. We can also play with two and then the choice would be difficult."

The match represents the first time all three have been available for duty on the same night with Zdrilic missing the three group matches of the Pre Season Cup through a back injury while Petrovski (3 goals) and Yorke (1 goal) led the goal scoring efforts in securing a semi final place.

Liverpool will be in Japan

Rafael Benitez has finally confirmed Liverpool's participation at December's World Club Championship in Japan.

Last month, the European champions were drawn to face either Sydney FC or Costa Rica's Deportivo Saprissa in the semi-finals of the competition.

Concerns over congestion of fixtures had seen Liverpool stall on confirming its place at the event, which debuted in Brazil six years ago.

It replaces the old format which consisted of a single match between the champions of Europe and South America.

"We feel we must go to Japan," Benitez said. "Looking at the Premiership fixtures, we will have to rearrange only one league game.

"Because we are European champions, I think it's good for us to be there.

"The problem has always been the number of games for us this season, not because we don't want to go.

"For the club and the players, it will be a great experience to play against teams from other continents.

"Maybe in years to come, this competition will have grown. It will be good for us if in years to come people see Liverpool has won the world championship."

Dodd wants to be Aboriginal role model

Adelaide United winger Travis Dodd wants to take a prominent role in getting more of Australia's Aboriginal community involved in football.

"Unfortunately for soccer at the moment it is not big enough at this stage on the local level in Australia to entice enough Aboriginal kids to come out and play and stick with it," Dodd told The Advertiser.

"They get driven towards AFL naturally."

Dodd's background is through his grandparents on his father's side.

His grandfather is of Ngarrindjeri descent from Point McLeay and his grandmother Narrunga/Kaurna from Point Pearce.

Newcastle Jets defender Jade North is another Aboriginal player in this season's A-League and Dodd hopes of the pair can work together to establish a program for indigenous youth.

"It would be great for there to be something in place where we could go around to schools and promote Aboriginals playing soccer on the world stage," he said.

The Editors A-League prediction

What the final 8 could look like come the 5th of February when the A-League concludes

1) Sydney FC
2) Melbourne Victory
3) Central Coast Mariners
4) Perth Glory
5) Newcastle Jets
6) Adelaide United
7) Queensland Roar
8) New Zealand Knights

A-League Pre-Season Tournament

GRAND FINAL

MARINERS CLAIM PRE-SEASON GLORY

Super-Sub Petrie goal enough for final triumph

Central Coast Mariners	1
Perth Glory	0

The defining moment which saw the Mariners lift the Pre-season cup trophy was when Stewart Petrie (centre) headed home the winner during the first half

By Brett Taylor

The Central Coast Mariners clinched a fighting 1-0 win over Perth Glory on Saturday night to collect the Pre-Season Cup and press their claims as real contenders in the Hyundai A-League.

A fairly even match was decided by a Stewart Petrie header in the 38th minute, with both teams missing a few chances they would hope to stick away when the season proper kicks off next week.

Mariners defender Michael Beauchamp started on the bench having just returned from his Socceroo training camp call-up in Holland the night before the match.

Andrew Clark returned to the side in the only change from last week's 3-1 semi-final win over Melbourne.

Perth had to deal with a number of injuries and suspensions, with the likes of Nick Ward, Henry Fa'Arodo and Naum Sekulovski getting their chance to impress coach Steve McMahon.

Both Bobby Despotovski and Stephen McMahon Junior were suspended while skipper Jaime Harnwell was sidelined with the chicken pox.

Before kick-off, the picturesque Central Coast Express Advocate Stadium was covered by dark cloud which threatened to ruin the afternoon, but the sky eventually cleared up and the under-strength 6609 crowd enjoyed pleasant conditions.

Central Coast had the better of the opening exchanges with the first real chance coming on 10 minutes when a Damien Brown through ball released striker Nick Mrdja, who was just unable to round Glory keeper Jason Petkovic.

During the movement Mrdja picked up a knock to his knee, which he had been struggling with all week in training.

After 5 minutes of hobbling he was replaced by Petrie, with Mrdja set to undergo scans during the week to determine the extent of the damage.

At this stage, it appears that Mrdja will miss the first two weeks for the Mariners, a damaging blow to their start of the A-League campaign.

Central Coast star Tom Pondeljak was enjoying his new free role up front, dictating the Mariners play and eluding the Perth defence time and time again.

Extended pressure from the home side culminated in the 37th minute with a cracking Matthew Osman strike from 23 yards that looked destined to finish in the top corner, but for an equally spectacular diving save from Petkovic.

However from the resulting corner Petkovic turned from hero to villain as he was caught out of position on Noel Spencer's back post cut back to let Petrie head into the roof of the net from point blank range.

Young Glory forward Ward had the perfect chance to equalize right before half time when he cut his defender in the box and curled a shot past Mariners keeper John Crawley, only to see it skim the top of the bar and go behind for a goal kick. There was a feeling that a goal going into the break would have been crucial for Perth's chances but it wasn't to be.

The second half was a relatively quiet affair in which Perth pushed forward for a goal, eventually throwing on Hiroyuki Ishida and Stuart Young to bolster the attack. The Mariners defence though had all the answers with Clark in particular looking as solid as ever.

Ward looked most likely to create something for the visitors but as the match wore on it was clear that Perth were sorely missing some spark up front, looking lost without the inspirational Bobby Despotovski.

Coach McMahon will also look to new arrival Brian Deane to make a big impact in the inaugural A-League.

Glory midfielder Billy Celeski traded wasted free kicks with Petrie and the impressive Osman was crowded out in the box as the match petered out late on.

Central Coast local boy Brown is building a formidable partnership with Dean Heffernan down the left side for the Mariners, and was pleased to bring some silverware to the area.

"To win a final in my home town, with the family there, it's the best football moment I have ever had," he said after the final whistle.

Mariners coach Lawrie McKinna was equally pleased, hoping his team's form will carry on in the coming weeks, starting with a replay in Perth on the A-League's opening night.

"We're just happy to get the win and are now looking forward to playing Perth on Friday. It's always nice to win."

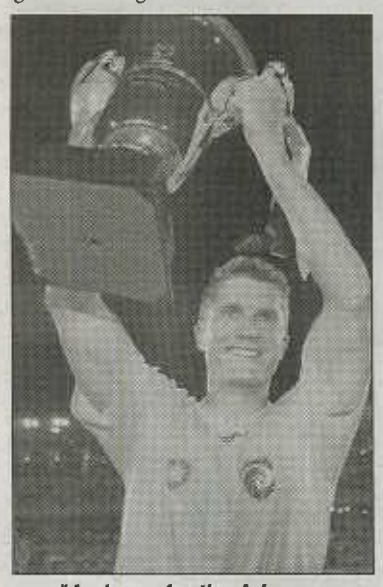
"Hopefully we can get the 3 points in Perth then come back (to the Central Coast) on Fathers Day on the back of a win to play Newcastle," he said.

Perth coach Steve McMahon played down the importance of the match before kick-off, and was obviously looking to the future after the loss.

"On another day we might have a few more players and it will be a different story. The most pleasing aspect for us was that we created opportunities."

He was confident marquee signing Deane could have an immediate effect.

"He'll be a threat to the opposition from the first whistle."



"And now for the A-League trophy" - Mariners skipper Noel Spencer celebrates winning the Pre-season cup over the Perth Glory

Who's Hot:

Two weeks in a row but who could fault Mariners new attacking star **Tom Pondeljak.**

He thwarted the Glory defence time and time again and deserved a goal for his efforts.

Is playing some of the best football in his career and will hope to carry this in Perth this Friday.

Who's Not:

Perth Glory's **Simon Colosimo** was again, below his usual consistent self failing to hold things in midfield.

Huge things are expected from Colosimo at the Glory this year, and so far, he hasn't shown the form that was once seen with the Parramatta Power two years ago.

Central Coasts' tough midfielder Dean Heffernan sticks his foot out against Glory's Hiroyuki Ishida (right)

Player Ratings

Central Coast Mariners FC: John Crawley 7, Wayne O'Sullivan 6 (Michael Beauchamp 5), Noel Spencer 6, Andre Gumprecht 6, Dean Heffernan 7, Nick Mrdja 6 (Stewart Petrie 7), Tom Pondeljak 9, Damien Brown 8 (John Hutchinson 6), Andrew Clark 8, Matthew Osman 7, Alex Wilkinson 7.

Perth Glory FC: Jason Petkovic 6, Matt Horsley 7, Simon Colosimo 5, Scott Miller 6 (Hiroyuki Ishida 5), Nick Ward 8, Ante Kovacevic 7, Jaime Coyne 7, Billy Celeski 7, Henry Fa'Arodo 7 (Stuart Young 5), Naum Sekulovski 5, Adrian Caceres 6.

GAME STATS

CENTRAL COAST MARINERS . . .1
(Stewart Petrie 38')

PERTH GLORY 0

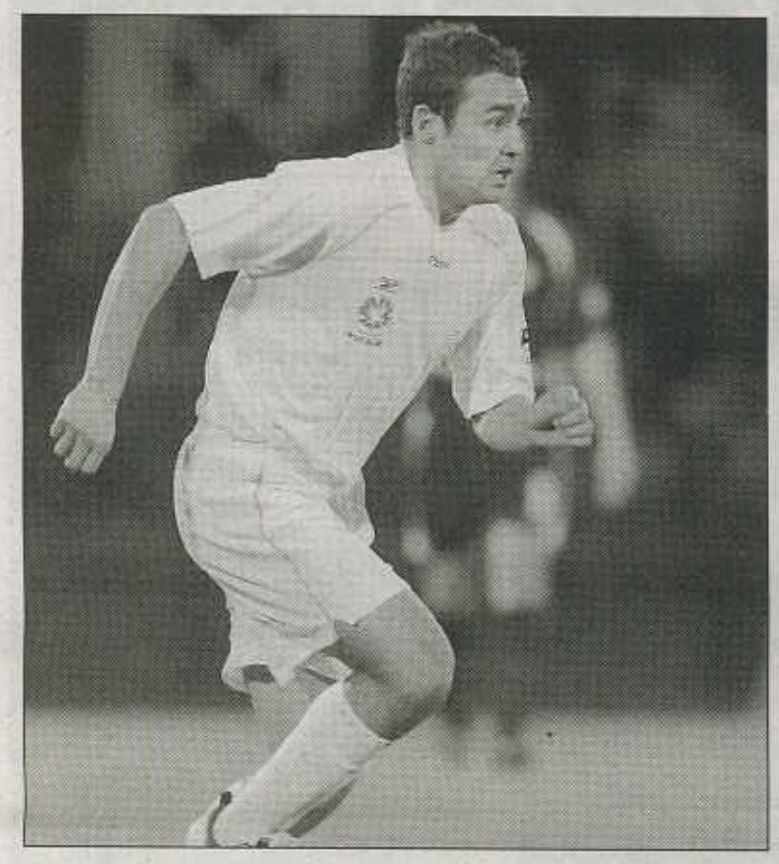
Ground: Central Coast Stadium.
Crowd: 6609

Central Coast Mariners: John Crawley (gk); Wayne O'Sullivan (Michael Beauchamp 69'), Noel Spencer, Andre Gumprecht, Dean Heffernan, Nick Mrdja (Stewart Petrie 16'), Tom Pondeljak, Damien Brown (John Hutchinson 89'), Andrew Clark, Matthew Osman, Alex Wilkinson
Subs: Danny Vukovic (gk)

Perth Glory: Jason Petkovic (gk); Matthew Horsley, Simon Colosimo, Scott Miller (Hiroyuki Ishida 67'), Nick Ward, Ante Kovacevic, Jamie Coyne, Billy Celeski, Henry Fa,Arodo (Stuart Young 81'), Naum Sekulovski, Adrian Caceres
Subs: Daniel Vasilevski, Milan Jovanic (gk)
Cautions: Nil
Referee: Matthew Breeze

ADELAIDE UNITED

South Australian's set to gain their respect back



Travis Dodd will be one to watch out for this season

By Mark Stavroulakis

Known for its grace and elegance in a city famous for its churches, the South Australian faithful, who all know too well about winning in any type of sport, particularly AFL and of course Lleyton Hewitt, will entrust their faith in their new football side namely, Adelaide United.

After setting the old National League on fire with a semi-final finishing, accompanied with record breaking crowds at the Mecca of stadiums in Adelaide – Hindmarsh, coach John Kosmina has assembled quite a credible squad in getting its act together for the opening whistle of the competition.

The recent retirement of former Socceroo star Aurelio Vidmar sent shockwaves through the Adelaide camp as they saw their skipper say goodbye spending after 20 years in the game.

His loss though was not entirely gone for good, as the club offered 'Viddie' the assistant coach's role, something they should be credited for.

No doubt a great loss to the side, Adelaide has re-grouped and with the appointment of attacking midfielder Ross Aloisi as skipper, the club is hoping for a top four finish this season.

"We have created many chances during our pre-season campaign, but have failed to finish them.

"We are slowly on the rise and I am confident we will do really well in the competition this year," said the skipper.

Ross made his senior debut for Adelaide City in 1990, and after playing football in 5 different countries, was lured back to Adelaide in 2003, to be a part of the inaugural Adelaide United squad.

Back to the squad, the intimidating presence of mammoth goalkeeper Daniel Beltrame, followed by an experienced backline of Michael Valkanis, Richie Alagich and the youthful Aaron Goulding is sure to be one of this competition's toughest units to crack.

Adelaide United's stylish home ground – Hindmarsh Stadium

Valkanis has been in outstanding form during the club's pre-season campaign, not only serving his club well in the back but he's also managed to finish up top scorer for the club.

"My first priority is to see that Adelaide keep a clean sheet, we have the defenders to do so, scoring them was a real bonus."

Three faces that will surely be menacing for any side will be right midfielder Travis Dodd, central midfielder Angelo Costanzo and striker Carl Veart, who all have a point to prove in this new league.

One exciting prospect the league will witness this season is also that of the talents of Chinese international Qu Shengqing.

The presence of Michael Valkanis in Adelaide's back-line is a major plus for the South Australians

His amazing balls skills (being half Brazilian also), along with his eye for goal will be aspects to look out for in Qu.

Many of the Adelaide players have stated time and time again the danger Qu displays during training, so his entertainment value will be one to look out for.

The club has also put its hopes on signing one final player, a striker, but this won't be happening until the early stages of the A-League season.

With Vidmar gone, Kosmina could lure the likes of former South Melbourne 'hitman' Michael Curicja, ex-National League Player of the year Fernando Rech and Trinidad & Tobago striker Kevin Nelson.

Home Ground: Hindmarsh Stadium is the home of football in South Australia and of the Adelaide United FC. The stadium is Australia's only purpose built football stadium, and just 5 minutes from the centre of Adelaide.

Hindmarsh Stadium received a major redevelopment that was completed in 2000 and seats 15,000 spectators.

With a playing surface and facilities exceeding international standards, the stadium hosted rounds of the Sydney 2000 Olympic Football Tournament and the 2004 Oceania Nations Cup and is set to stage games of the World Club Championship qualifying tournament that will be played in May 2005.

Biggest Threat: Adelaide United's biggest threat will be that of former Parramatta Power flyer Travis Dodd.

After returning from a memorable one-year stint in the Greek First Division with Panionios, the 25 year-olds clever runs and menacing skills will be put to great use for Adelaide.

Biggest Worry: With the strike force of Carl Veart and Qu Shengqing yet to take off, goals have been hard to come by for the South Australian squad.

With a replacement set for Viddie to be heard very soon, an ace marksman is certainly needed as the side will be able to create a lot this year, it's a matter of finishing them.

ABSW Prediction: It's going to be one tough season for Kosmina who will have his work cut out in the tactics department. A lack of goals spells trouble for the club, but a steady defence could work for them, however, the points are scored by victories.

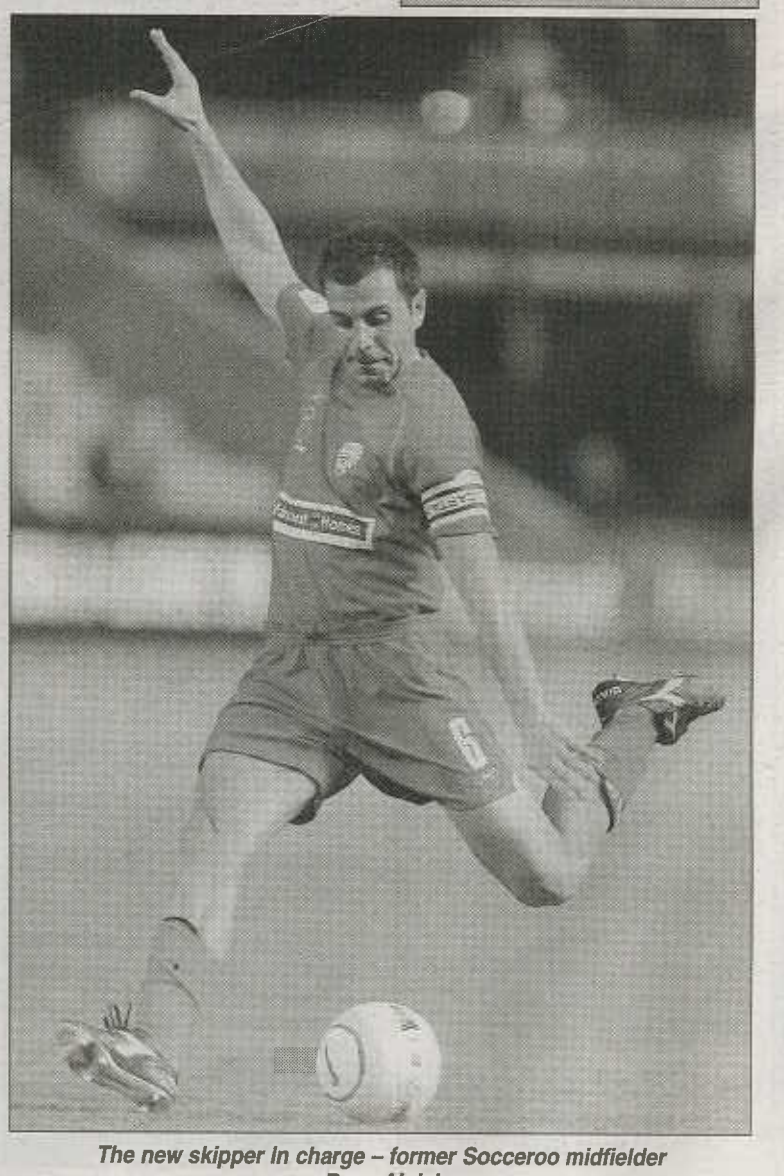
A sixth place finishing looms for the South Australians

Adelaide United FC Squad

1 - Daniel Beltrame
2 - Richard Alagich
3 - Kristian Rees
4 - Angelo Costanzo
5 - Michael Valkanis
6 - Ross Aloisi - **CAPTAIN**
7 - Lucas Pantelis
8 - Carl Veart
9 - Matthew Kemp
11 - Louis Brain
12 - Chad Bugeja
13 - Travis Dodd
14 - Aaron Goulding
15 - Michael Matricciani**
16 - Tony Hatzis**
17 - Adam van Dommele
18 - Robert Cornthwaite**
19 - Qu Shengqing
20 - Robert Bajic

**One more played to be named*
*** Under 20 player*

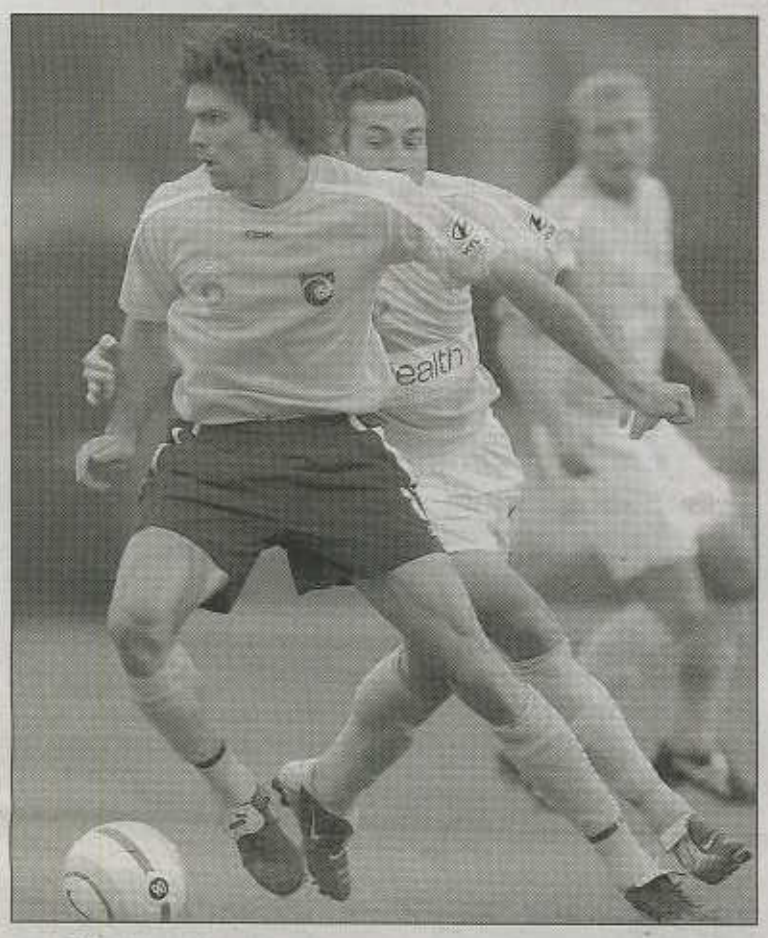
Head Coach: John Kosmina
Assistant Coach: Aurelio Vidmar
***All players listed have their official squad numbers beside them**



The new skipper in charge – former Socceroo midfielder Ross Aloisi

CENTRAL COAST MARINERS

Mariners riding on a Coastal wave of excitement



Michael Beauchamp has firmly established himself as one of this country's up and coming Socceroo defenders.

By Peter Damalas

The Central Coast Mariners have had a successful pre-season, qualifying for home finals of both the Australian Qualifying Tournament for the Oceania Club World Championship, and the Pre-Season Cup.

The fortunes of this franchise- given the fact that the area has no other representative in a national sport- both on and off the field, will be of immense interest to all and sundry.

Former Northern Spirit player and coach Lawrie McKinna has his stamp all over a team that plays with heart and tactical acumen.

McKinna has emerged as a front runner in becoming the A-League's coach of the year, an award that has been no secret to the Scotsman who had previously won in during the NSL days.

Full-blooded players such as the fiery Dean Heffernan, 'chrome dome' hero Wayne O' Sullivan and inspirational captain Noel Spencer epitomise the desire of everyone at the club to achieve special things in the inaugural A-League season. The signs are there that the Mariners will be there or thereabouts come semi-final time.

A midfield engine room comprising of O'Sullivan, Andre Gumprecht and Tom Pondeljak will look to dominate opponents, while Nick Mrdja provides the cutting edge up front.

Back to Tommy, the former Perth Glory flyer has been in great pre-season form and will look to bring that into their first clash against his old squad this Friday.

The midfield back-up will come in the form of the silky skills of Leo Carle, older brother of Jets star Nick.

Beware of the 'Marinators' that will lurk at the Central Coast Stadium this year

Leo will be relishing his role at playing against his brother later in the season.

Damian Brown has also become an unsung hero so far for the Mariners after putting in decent performances during their vigorous pre-season hit-outs.

The defence includes Socceroo hopeful Michael Beauchamp- a class act- the up-and-coming Alex Wilkinson and giant Paul O' Grady who is currently nursing an injury but will be back soon.

Young Socceroo custodian Danny Vukovic will certainly be looking to supplant veteran John Crawley in goals.

Central Coast Mariners star striker Nick Mrdja will be a thorn in many opposing A-League defences this season.

'JC' has been a revelation at the Mariners, a former Colo Colo custodian, Crawley's jump into the Australia's elite league was about time.

In front of a vocal home crowd at Central Coast Stadium, and of course their very own brand of fans, nicknamed the 'Mairnators, the Mariners will be difficult to contain.

The true test will be away from home- should Mrdja be well contained then the team may struggle to score consistently.

One game to watch out for is the Mariners derby clash against cross-town rivals the Newcastle United Jets in determining who is the better regional side in the A-League.

Home Ground: With a total capacity of 20,059, Central Coast Stadium has played host to many major events, including International Rugby Union, NRL, boxing, motocross and open-air rock concerts as well as a multitude of local sporting and community events.

Biggest Threat: Former Perth Glory ace Nick Mrdja holds all the aces when it comes to the goalscoring department.

A potential rival with Archie Thompson. Petrovski and Yorke for the top goalscorer award.

Mrdja will become a major target for opposing defenders in the league and will need to be at his professional best in keeping his mind on the job.

Biggest Worry: Both Adam Kwasnik and Stewart Petrie are two strikers that will need to contribute to the attack in terms of assists and scoring, to ensure that the Mariners are not a one-man-band up front.

Both strikers have played in both the Northern Spirit and Blacktown City Demons so a positive partnership shouldn't really be a problem alongside Mrdja.

ABSW Prediction: Will finish in third place and will certainly challenge all-comers in the semi-finals.

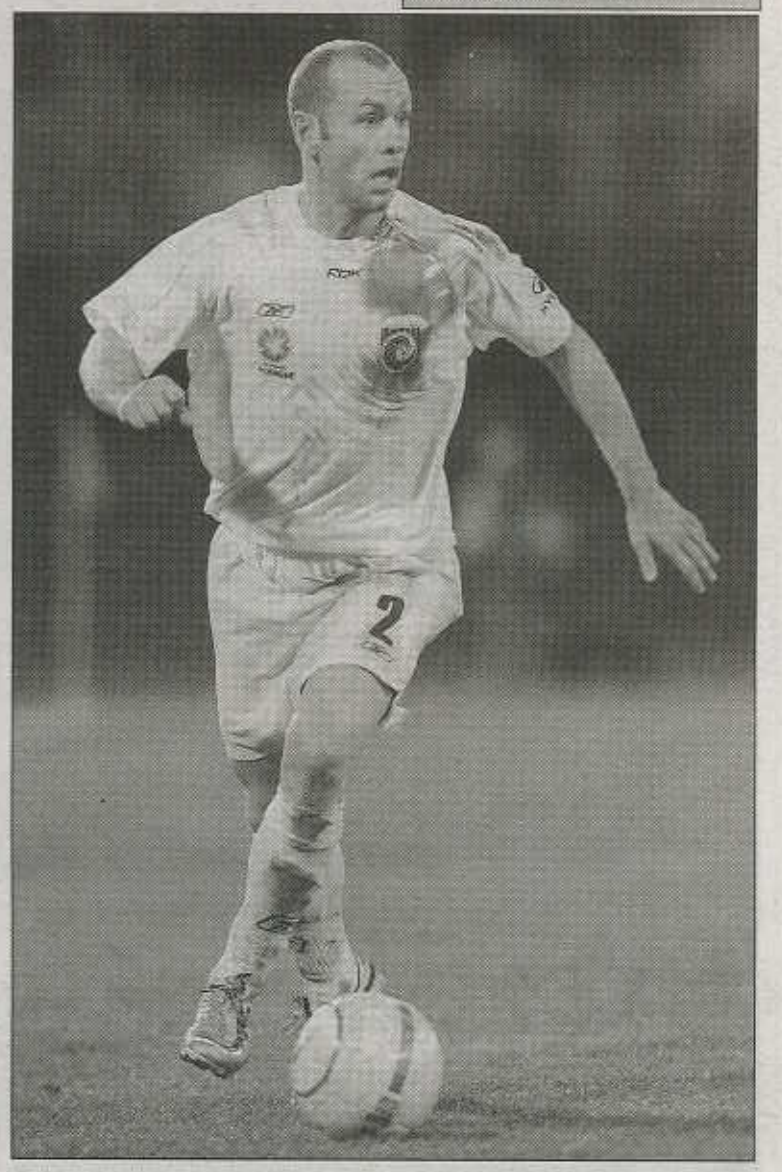
In their current form, will also take out the rival battle against foes Newcastle United Jets in seeing who is the best from the North Coast.

Central Coast Mariners Squad

1 - John Crawley
2 - Wayne O'Sullivan
3 - Paul O'Grady
4 - Noel Spencer - **CAPTAIN**
5 - Michael Beauchamp
6 - Andre Gumprecht
7 - John Hutchinson
8 - Dean Heffernan
9 - Nick Mrdja
10 - Tom Pondeljak
11 - Damian Brown
12 - Stewart Petrie
13 - Russell Woodruffe**
14 - Leo Carle
15 - Andrew Clark
16 - Nigel Boogaard**
17 - Matthew Osman
18 - Alex Wilkinson
19 - Adam Kwasnik
20 - Daniel Vukovic**

** *Under 20s players.*

Head Coach: Lawrie McKinna
Assistant Coach: Ian Ferguson
***All players listed have their official squad numbers beside them**



Wayne O'Sullivan is one of the Mariners major work-horses in this squad

MELBOURNE VICTORY

Will we hear the Victory sing?

By Mark Stavroulakis

The cosmopolitan city that is Melbourne will play host to its new found sporting love in the Melbourne Victory as they tackle this year's A-League.

Known as the sporting capital of Australia, Melbourne is blessed with many sporting greats from Rugby League, AFL and Basketball.

Football will become the new giant in Melbourne and under the expert tutelage of Scottish born coach Ernie Merrick, this could well be achieved this year.

As Head Coach of the Victorian Institute of Sport's Men's Football program for 12 years, Ernie kick-started the careers of many Australian footballers who have either stayed local or headed abroad.

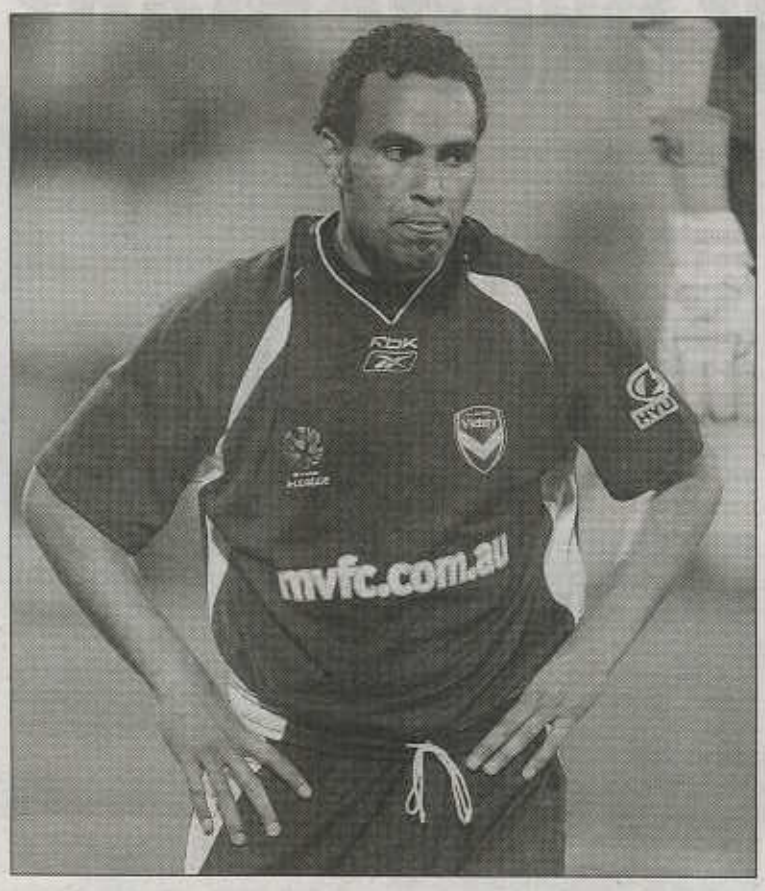
Under Merrick, a number of star players made their trek home from Europe with four names the standout.

Victory's defence will surely be the best in the land.

Led by skipper and the never to shy presence of one Kevin Muscat, one must believe that his passion for the game will certainly drive his fellow team-mates.

Always wearing his heart on his sleeve, the 32-year-old will be flanked by former Young Socceroo central defender Mark Byrnes and the elegant presence of ex-Belgian international Geoffrey Claeys.

It's going to be a tough battle under the sticks as to who will get that coveted number one position as Eugene Galekovic takes on Michael Theoklitos – the latter looks more likely to start.



Striker Archie Thompson will be amongst most of Victory's goals

The talents of Michael Ferrante in midfield will play a major role in the success of the Victory

Melbourne's attack in terms of its midfield and strikers has certainly caught the eye of many during its pre-season campaign.

Right midfielder Richard Kitzbichler, a former Austrian international, has established himself as possibly becoming one of this year's unsung heroes.

While over on the left side, former Cercle Bruges star Andy Vlahos will play a vital role in the club's fortunes over the year.

It's the Victory's attacking midfield duo of Michael Ferrante and Kristian Sarkies that is sure to be a treat for any A-League follower.

Quietly known as the pin-up boy for the club, Ferrante's exciting flair on the ball will work hand in hand with that of one of this country's most exciting young talents in Young Socceroo Sarkies.

"I am confident that on our day, we can beat anyone, we have one of the best sides in the league and I know we will do everyone proud here in Melbourne," said Ferrante.

In terms of their strike-force, well you can't go wrong with the likes of goal scoring machine Archie Thompson and provider Daniel Allsopp up front.

The pair has established a firm connection already and will challenge for the title of being the deadliest double duo in the A-League.

Archie has a point to prove that he still has what it takes to play in the International side so expect him to play a huge part in Victory's success.

There are also the promising likes of youngsters such as Vince Lia, Carl Recchia, Adrian Leijer and Chris Tadrosse.

Spoiled for rich up and coming talent, this will be the driving part in Melbourne's push for developing future Socceroo stars.

Home Ground: Situated in the heart of Melbourne's unique sports and entertainment precinct, Olympic Park Stadium has always been a special part of Melbourne.

Over the past 150 years, the site, has been home to Melbourne's Botanical Gardens, Australia's first Zoological Gardens, Melbourne Football Ground, and Melbourne's Friendly Society Gardens.

Today, Olympic Park Stadium features an accredited FIFA soccer pitch, athletics track, concert facilities, a range of hospitality facilities, and can accommodate up to 18,500 people.

Olympic Park Stadium hosts some of Australia's premier sports and entertainment events, including athletics, soccer and rugby league at local, national and international standards. The Olympic Park Stadium is home to NRL Team Melbourne Storm, who play all home games at the venue.

Victory's new cauldron – Olympic Park

Biggest Threat: The danger man of the clan, striker Archie Thompson's consistency in front of goal and being able to create nothing from something has surely gotten his reputation as being a real predator for goal.

Tipped also as being one of the A-League's top goalscorers.

Biggest Worry: A worrying sign that will hopefully not continue in their first match against Sydney FC was their use of the long ball.

Against the Mariners in their pre-season cup semi, the Victory did spring a number of them during the match which was not a great sight to see as a spectator.

A team with so much skill and talent will need to play to their strengths, and ball-playing is certainly one of them.

ABSW Prediction: Probably the closest side set to compete with current front runners Sydney FC, a second placed finish is on the cards for the plucky Victorians.

Their attacking set-up is jaw dropping and on their day will produce a feast of goals, bring on the Victory!

Melbourne Victory FC Squad

1 - Michael Theoklitos
2 - Kevin Muscat - CAPTAIN
3 - Daniel Piorkowski
4 - Mark Byrnes
5 - Geoffrey Claeys
6 - Steve Pantelidis
7 - Michael Ferrante
8 - Andy Vlahos
9 - Daniel Allsopp
10 - Archie Thompson
11 - Vince Lia**
12 - Carl Recchia
13 - Kristian Sarkies**
15 - Adrian Leijer**
16 - Simon Storey
17 - Richard Kitzbichler
18 - Chris Tadrosse**
19 - Ricky Diaco
20 - Eugene Galekovic

** *Under 20 player*

Head Coach: Ernie Merrick
Assistant Coach: Aaron Healey
***All players listed have their official squad numbers beside them**

Melbourne Victory's tenacious defender and captain Kevin Muscat

SOCCER NSW LIFTOUT

SUPER SUNDAY TO SOLVE FINALS PUZZLE

By Paul Goodwin

Five teams are fighting it out for the second to fifth places and most of them are capable of finishing second or third, heading into a fascinating final round of the Winter Premier League season this weekend.

There is much to play for still at both ends of the ladder, with four vital matches involving the top half dozen teams and a couple of games affecting the battle for the wooden spoon.

While Premiers FC Bossy Liverpool hold an unassailable lead, only three points presently separate second from fifth.

Second and third spots, currently held, narrowly by an off-the-boil Canterbury-Marrickville and Dulwich Hill, respectively, remain up for grabs.

Canterbury, with Laki Konistis and Damon Collina looking after the coaching together there now, have seen a handy three-point buffer to third spot two weeks ago, evaporate after successive losses.

With Collina suspended from playing and Fred Umlil joining him on the sidelines after being red-carded in the team's latest loss to Macarthur, the Berries won't have it too easy when they take on Northern Tigers at Parklands Oval on Sunday, when there are sure to be some jitters.

Striker John Buonavoglia has been linked to Marconi

Goalkeeper Andrew Crews could be heading to Marconi

Dulwich Hill need to win at Fraser Park to seal at least third spot, and possibly to leap past Canterbury into second, should the latter come a cropper at Parklands Oval.

Fraser Park, who need one more point to lock up fifth spot, could go as high as second, with a big win over their neighbours at Fraser Park on Sunday.

Hajduk Wanderers have a tough home game against FC Bossy Liverpool to contend with, if they are to cling to fourth; but while safe in the five it would be better, surely, for them to advance to third and get an extra bite of the semi-finals cherry.

The small matter of fifth still interests Sydney University, who can overtake Fraser Park, should Dulwich Hill take the spoils in the local derby at the Sydenham ground.

There is plenty at stake when University faces Sutherland at Seymour Shaw Park, where the Sharks' incentive is to finish sixth and overtake 'the students'.

At the lower end, Fairfield holds hopes of moving off the bottom and avoiding the dreaded wooden spoon, which could end up with one of the two Hurstville clubs, both of which are three points ahead of the Bulls.

The Bulls travel to face the Minotaurs, who are seven ahead of Fairfield on goal difference.

ZSC, which lost 2-0 to Fairfield last weekend, is only one goal better off than the Bulls. They will finish last if they lose at home to Stanmore and their neighbour and rival is beaten by Fairfield.

SAINTS SNAP UP MUSUMECI SIBLINGS

Carlo Musumeci is headed to St George

The new-look Premier League season is still the best part of five months away, but the long off-season still hasn't stopped a number of clubs from looking to bolster their roster.

At the forefront of player recruitment is Marconi, whose new coach Brian Brown is working on a number of key position players to get the former National League giants back in the headlines. Names such as Matthew Langdon, John Buonavoglia and Andrew Crews have been linked with a move to the Stallions.

Blacktown City and Sydney United have also been active in the market, with names such as Stacey Alogdellis and George Souris being linked, while St. George have beaten rivals Sydney Olympic to sign the Musumeci brothers – Carlo and Marino who were arguably the best young players on the market. Sydney Olympic coach Michael Urukalo readily admits that he is looking for three to four quality signings, and is talking to a number of players.

One club at the other end of the spectrum is Rockdale City Suns. General Manager Mendo Cklamovski is being quietly cautious, having not even confirmed a coach for next season.

"We have a few names together, but it's premature to be doing anything until we know the exact makeup of the competition," Cklamovski said.

Ivan Petkovic and Zlatko Nastevski are considered the two in the frame for the coaching position.

Marino Musumeci (front) pictured here holding off Paul Bilokapic, is moving from Sydney Olympic to St George with his brother

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NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE

AT A GLANCE

C/BURY MARRICKVILLE 0
MACARTHUR RAMS 2

The top three ambitions of Canterbury-Marrickville will be decided at Parklands Oval against Northern Tigers next Sunday afternoon, after a controversial send-off and an indifferent performance saw them beaten 2-0 by Macarthur Rams.

Berries coach Laki Konistis was scathing of the referee's performance, in a spiteful match that saw midfielder Freddy Umlil sent off two minutes into the second half for a challenge on the Rams' Daniel McCann.

STANMORE HAWKS 1
HAJDUK WANDERERS UTD 0

Hajduk Wanderers United were another top-three candidate put to the sword by a lesser light last Sunday and will need to beat the Premier F.C. Bossy Liverpool next weekend, to secure the double chance in the finals.

A lone goal from David James set up Stanmore's 1-0 win and their fourth victory in five games. The Hawks are destined to finish mid-table after a solid second half to the season.

WESTERN RAGE 3
SUTHERLAND SHARKS 3

Sutherland Sharks kissed goodbye to their finals chances when held to a 3-3 draw by Western Rage last Saturday night at historical Garside Park. Sharks striker Jimmy Bakis did his best to boost his side, with two goals, but he was overshadowed by a cameo performance from the Rage's Hugo Coronel, who scored three times.

Hurstville ZSC striker Orhan Dincer

DULWICH HILL 2
HURSTVILLE CITY 1

Dulwich Hill returned to third spot with a 2-1 win over Hurstville City Minotaurs, but it was an indifferent performance from goalkeeper Wojtek Zarzyncki that had most tongues wagging.

Zarzyncki performed some real heroics to deny the Minotaurs, only to gift them their sole goal of the game, when he attempted to play a backpass and was dispossessed. It was left to Ivo de Jesus to settle the issue, when he lobbed up for the winner two minutes from time.

HURSTVILLE ZSC 0
FAIRFIELD BULLS 2

Fairfield Bulls moved a step closer to offloading the wooden spoon, condemning Hurstville ZSC to a bottom-three finish with a 2-0 win at the Sydney United Sports Centre.

Without injured duo Eddie Adam and Denis Alilovic, Hurstville ZSC tried hard but lacked the firepower to match the Bulls. Two goals in two minutes midway through the second half, including an own goal from a set piece, gave the Bulls all three points.

FC BOSSY LIVERPOOL 3
NORTHERN TIGERS 1

Alex Asanovic moved one step closer to engraving his name on the Golden Boot trophy, scoring all three goals in F.C.Bossy Liverpool's 3-1 win over Northern Tigers.

Asanovic took his tally to 23 goals in 25 games, five clear of nearest rival Ivo de Jesus, with just one game remaining.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY 2
FRASER PARK DRAGONS 2

Sydney University will need to beat Sutherland and hope that Fraser Park come undone against Dulwich Hill, to make the playoffs next weekend after they were held to a 2-2 draw with the Dragons at University Oval.

Twice they led, only to have the advantage wiped out each time. Evangelos Petratos threw the visitors a lifeline with a telling 82nd minute equaliser.

Players from Fairfield and Hurstville ZSC display their agility in this contest from last weekend's game

ROUND 25: RESULTS

FIRST GRADE: **Western Rage 3** (H Coronel 4'/38'/68') **Sutherland Sharks 3** (J Bakis 51'/89', I MacDonald 67'), **FC Bossy Liverpool 3** (A Asanovic 15'/26'/37') **Northern Tigers 1** (T Spencer 30'), **Canterbury Marrickville 0 Macarthur Rams 2** (S Hammond 42', P Wither 85'), **Sydney University 2** (L McDougall 16', D Felton 58') **Fraser Park Dragons 2** (G Collins 17', E Petratos 82'), **Dulwich Hill 2** (I de Jesus 46'/88') **Hurstville City Minotaurs 1** (G Lagoudakis 52'), **Hurstville ZSC 0 Fairfield Bulls 2** (Own goal 68', N Chahda 70'), **Stanmore Hawks 1** (D James 61') **Hajduk Wanderers United 0.**

GRADE 20: **Western Rage 4 Sutherland Sharks 3, FC Bossy Liverpool 2 Northern Tigers 1, Canterbury Marrickville 0 Macarthur Rams 2, Sydney University 4 Fraser Park Dragons 3, Dulwich Hill 5 Hurstville City Minotaurs 0, Hurstville ZSC 1 Fairfield Bulls 7, Stanmore Hawks 3 Hajduk Wanderers United 3.**

RESCHEDULED FROM ROUND 17:
FIRST GRADE: Northern Tigers 3 Fairfield Bulls 2.

LEADING GOALSCORERS

23	Alex Asanovic (FCBL),
18	Ivo de Jesus (DH),
14	Fadi Ghosson (CMO),
11	Tim Gledhill (HW),
	Ben Jenke (NT),
	Tony Basha (FB),
	Iain Macdonald (SS),

SOCCER NSW

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE FIRST GRADE • ROUND 25

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
FC Bossy Liverpool	**25**	**16**	**6**	**3**	**50**	**28**	**22**	**54**
Canterbury Marrickville	25	13	4	8	54	42	12	43
Dulwich Hill	25	12	7	6	48	38	10	43
Hajduk Wanderers United	25	12	6	7	41	33	8	42
Fraser Park Dragons	25	11	7	7	44	35	9	40
Sydney University	25	11	5	9	39	40	-1	38
Sutherland Sharks	25	11	3	11	39	34	5	36
Stanmore Hawks	25	9	5	11	27	29	-2	32
Macarthur Rams	25	10	2	13	31	37	-6	32
Northern Tigers	25	8	6	11	34	38	-4	30
Western Rage	25	7	9	9	43	53	-10	30
Hurstville City Minotaurs	25	6	6	13	30	40	-10	24
Hurstville ZSC	25	7	3	15	29	45	-16	24
Fairfield Bulls	25	6	3	16	33	50	-17	21

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE GRADE 20 • ROUND 25

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Sydney University	**25**	**16**	**6**	**3**	**54**	**22**	**32**	**54**
Dulwich Hill	25	15	8	2	64	26	38	53
Macarthur Rams	25	12	7	6	52	46	6	43
FC Bossy Liverpool	25	11	6	8	39	38	1	39
Canterbury Marrickville	25	12	2	11	53	39	14	38
Fraser Park Dragons	25	10	7	8	54	41	13	37
Sutherland Sharks	25	10	6	9	43	47	-4	36
Fairfield Bulls	25	10	4	11	46	51	-5	34
Stanmore Hawks	25	9	5	11	36	38	-2	32
Hajduk Wanderers United	25	8	7	10	47	42	5	31
Western Rage	25	8	6	11	42	48	-6	30
Northern Tigers	25	4	11	10	27	45	-18	23
Hurstville City Minotaurs	25	6	4	15	31	51	-20	22
Hurstville ZSC	25	3	3	19	22	76	-54	12

NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE FIXTURES

◆ ROUND 26 ◆

Sunday 28th August

Home Team	Away Team	Venue	First	Grade 20
Hurstville ZSC	Stanmore Hawks	Hurstville Oval	3:00pm	1:00pm
Hajduk Wanderers United	FC Bossy Liverpool	Hajduk Stadium	3:00pm	1:00pm
Northern Tigers	Canterbury Marrickville	Parklands Oval	3:00pm	1:00pm
Macarthur Rams	Western Rage	Lynwood Park	3:00pm	1:00pm
Sutherland Sharks	Sydney University	Seymour Shaw	3:00pm	1:00pm
Fraser Park Dragons	Dulwich Hill	Fraser Park	3:00pm	1:00pm
Hurstville City Minotaurs	Fairfield Bulls	Rockdale Sports Ctr	3:00pm	1:00pm

NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE
THE BATTLE FOR FINALS SPOTS

SOCCER NSW

DE JESUS PROVES THE DIFFERENCE

By Paul Goodwin

Dulwich Hill	2
Hurstville City Minotaurs	1

Two goals from a fit again Ivo de Jesus edged Dulwich Hill closer to capturing one of the top three spots, as they squeezed out a 2-1 win over a fighting Hurstville City Minotaurs at Arlington Oval.

The inner city side left it late to claim the all-important win, after withstanding a barrage of Hurstville attacks and a goal-keeping blunder that cost them their early second half lead.

With regular keeper Joshua de Palma injured, the experienced Wojtek Zarzycki stepped in between the posts and made a couple of superb saves

However, he also made the mistake of trying to play the ball that had been played back to him, out with his feet, and lost possession.

This led to the Hurstville equaliser. George Lagoudakis wasted no time in gleefully finding the net and putting his side in with a fighting chance.

It had been a scoreless yet keenly contested first half.

The Minotaurs fell behind when a Pat Darvill corner, flicked on by Luke Vincent, was not cleared and de Jesus expertly placed the ball past the keeper with an exciting scissor kick.

The home side then surrendered that hard earned lead with that keeping blunder.

Already missing an indisposed Harry James and with Dean Storey also off-colour, Dulwich had Vincent partnering de Jesus early on.

Later, Storey emerged from the bench to play his part in his side's win.

He showed a bit of speed when he came on in the last 15 minutes, and while still feeling the effects of a bad bout of 'flu, he was instrumental in de Jesus netting his second goal, with two minutes left on the clock.

After receiving a good pass from Vincent, Storey took the ball through and then cut it back to the centre, for de Jesus to finish nicely.

Before de Jesus scored the winner, the Minotaurs looked capable of stealing a win. Both Michael di Meglio and Matt Ferreira had chances to score and Zarzycki was forced to make a number of crucial saves to keep his side in the contest.

MIXED RESULTS FOR BATTLING BULLS

Hurstville ZSC	0
Fairfield Bulls	2

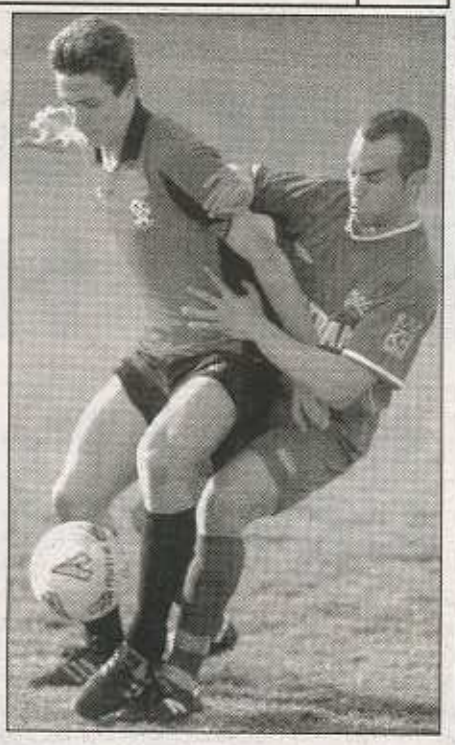
By Paul Goodwin

Bottom placed Fairfield Bulls are within three points of avoiding the wooden spoon and giving it to Hurstville ZSC after their 2-0 away win over that team.

The lucky Bulls – according to their coach - survived a torrid time at Sydney United Sports Centre. They benefited from an own goal by ZSC skipper Richie Plesa, when the big defender put a powerful header into his own net from a free kick by Marc Hoenselaars.

Hurstville ZSC showed no lack of commitment throughout, but their finishing let them down.

Having lost striker Eddie Adam to a broken foot and torn ligaments a few weeks earlier, and Denis Alilovic to a knee injury, the Hurstville side felt their loss of firepower badly.



A contest for possession between players from Fairfield and Hurstville ZSC

Fairfield's Matt Borg (left) disputes possession with a Hurstville ZSC adversary

Fairfield played some good football. Their skipper, Ryan O'Shea, was in fine touch and was involved in the second goal, when he combined with Hoenselaars and Michael Dowling to set up Nick Chahda.

Both teams hit the post, Tony Basha for Fairfield and Tony Alilovic for Hurstville.

The Bulls were well served by midfielders Dominic Arcella and Hoenselaars

Bulls coach Gilbert Yalda heaped praise on his young keeper, Rodrigo Galiano, who has been in great form this season.

"If this young lad does not get keeper of the year there will be something wrong," Yalda said.

Northern Tigers	3
Fairfield Bulls	2

By Paul Goodwin

The third attempt to play the Northern Tigers and Fairfield Bulls game ended at Lidcombe Oval last Tuesday with a 3-2 win for the Tigers; a result that was confirmed by Soccer NSW, after the floodlights failed three minutes into stoppage time.

The first attempt to stage the game at Parklands Oval had been washed out. The second game at Lidcombe Oval was abandoned due to floodlight failure when the Tigers led 1-0 from a Dave Provan goal, but the big defender was missing here, after picking up an ankle injury at the weekend.

Northern Tigers came from two goals down, both scored just before the break, then withstood a frantic final ten minutes.

Fairfield threw on fresh legs and made a real effort to at least pinch a point, but the Tigers cleared their lines several times before the game ended.

After dominating early, the Tigers fell behind after a terrible defensive mix-up in the 42nd minute meant the loose ball fell at the feet of Matt Borg, who tapped home from six yards.

A minute later, a 30 yard shot from Nick Chahda rattled the right hand upright before bouncing back across the line for goal number two.

The Tigers came back strongly, pulling a goal back in the 55th minute, when Jason Mesiti beat the offside trap.

Mesiti then rescued his side with a goal-line clearance at the other end, three minutes later.

In the 63rd minute, it was 2-2 when a superb strike from Paul Davies, found the bottom right corner of the net.

Fairfield wasn't allowed to regain a foothold in the game until the last ten minutes, by which time the Tigers had hit the lead for the first time, in the 78th minute.

Davies, Michael McCrory, and Marcus Frost all played a part, before Tom Spencer drilled the ball low past the keeper.

It was a fabulous move from a team with immense self-belief and one that had to contend with the late

A Bulls player beats a Tigers opponent to the ball in this aerial duel

withdrawal of striker Ben Jenke, who was confined to bed with the 'flu after his two-goal haul the previous weekend.

Fairfield's passing game had been impressive, at times, but it was no match for the great heart of the Northern Tigers players who, with this win, have apparently secured their team's place in the Super League for next season.

NORTHERN TIGERS vs FAIRFIELD BULLS

NORTHERN TIGERS: 1 Dean McCreath – 6 Nathan Hopley, 4 Danny Hurwitz, 5 Tony Mitiga, 3 Matt Hunter - 11 Paul Davies, 12 Tom Spencer, 8 Scott Ryan (14 Tom Geekie 90), 7 Jason Mesiti – 9 Michael McCrory, 15 Marcus Frost

Subs not used: 16 Matt Mesiti and 2 Tim Gibiett

Coach: Fred Mesiti

FAIRFIELD BULLS: 1 Rodrigo Galiano – 11 Cristiano Lima, 10 Nick Konios, 8 Ryan O'Shea (C), 12 Gilvin Shukur (3 Leigh Brown 76) – 7 Gokce Oncu (4 Samir Isa 60), 2 Marc Hoenselaars, 13 Michael Dowling, 15 Nick Chahda, - 9 Matt Borg (17 Odisho Shuaimon 72), 6 Tony Basha

Subs. not used: 20 Nik Jelic and 16 George Pupovac

Coach: Gilbert Yalda

Referee: Jonathon Streater

Assistant Referees: Adrian Hale and Brad Rayner

Yellow Cards: Northern Tigers: Nil; Fairfield Bulls: Michael Dowling 61

SOCCER NSW

NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE
THE BATTLE FOR FINALS SPOTS

DRAGONS DENY UNI PRECIOUS POINTS

By Paul Goodwin

A crucial late Fraser Park equaliser prevented Sydney University from taking the coveted fifth spot from the Dragons, as the teams played out a thrilling 2-2 draw at University Oval.

Twice, 'the students' led, only for the Dragons to respond both times with a goal.

A well-worked free kick from Joe Lempriere in the 16th minute, led to Luke McDougall sliding the ball past Stacy Alogdellis for the opening goal.

Fraser Park's Angelo Petratos salvaged a point for the Dragons with a 82nd minute goal

Soon after, Fraser Park found the net themselves. A corner from the left by Daisuke Nakajama was punched out by Chad Taylor, the Uni keeper pressed into service when incumbent Carl McMahon fell ill during the week.

The ball went only as far as Greg Collins, 15 yards out, and the midfielder scored his first goal of the season when he hit a sweetly timed drive past a wall of players.

The University boys began the second half in fine shape and regained the lead in the 58th minute.

Alogdellis flapped at a well flighted corner from the left by Nakajama and while Brad Wiblen's shot was blocked, the ball fell for Dan Felton, who struck well from 12 yards to restore his side's lead.

Sydney University brought on Rob Smithies and David Gill, making their last home appearance before calling it a day after an illustrious career with the club, the aim being to have both go out on a winning note. Attempting to protect their slender lead, the students found Fraser Park stepping up another gear.

In the 82nd minute a free kick on half way out on the left touchline taken by Michael Kladis proved too much for Taylor to deal with, after Angelo Petratos managed to get a looping header on target.

The keeper jumped, but unsuccessfully, and the ball dropped over his head into the net.

University set off again in search of the winner which would have allowed them to overtake Fraser Park on the table, but luck was not with them.

A Smithies header came back off the post and Nakajama, free in the six yard box in the 90th minute, managed to screw the ball wide after a sustained period of pressure had seen the ball at his feet with the keeper to beat.

A draw was probably a fair reflection of the game and now Sydney Uni have to win their last game and hope Fraser Park loses, if they are to take the coveted fifth spot.

Sydney University	2
Fraser Park Dragons	2

Fraser Park's Greg Collins (front) scored his team's first goal against Sydney Uni

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY vs FRASER PARK

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY: 40 Chad Taylor - 4 Dan Felton (C) (16 David Gill 70), 2 Daniel - Ault, 8 Tom Corte, 6 Jake Flower - 13 Joe Lempriere, 7 Peter Gavaghan (7 Elias Barkerim 79), 3 Brad Wiblen, 34 Daisuke Nakajama, - 11 Luke McDougall, 10 Marc Coughlin (9 Rob Smithies 53)

Subs not used: 18 Anthony Costa, and 14 Malik Bideraton

Coach: Jimmy Campbell

FRASER PARK: 1 Stacy Alogdellis - 2 Ben Mailer, 4 Michael Kladis, 12 Mark Bariamis – 5 Martin Bourke (C), 9 Terry Atsas (15 Steve Karavatakis 70), 7 Jorges Fernandes, 10 Greg Collins (14 Malcolm Bideau 81), 6 Archie Markopoulos - 8 Angelo Petratos, 11 Liam Austin

Sub not used: Daniel Farias and 13 Samuel Jacob

Coach: Ian Gillan

Referee: Peter Vrtkovski

Assistant Referees: Paul Mpliokas and John Soranidis

Yellow Cards: Nil

TEENAGE TYRO SINKS SHARKS FINALS HOPES

By Paul Goodwin

Western Rage youngster Hugo Coronel bagged a hat-trick, but both his team and visiting Sutherland fell short of the victory each desperately sought.

Neither side really got what they wanted out of the match, a 3-3 draw, which wasn't enough to give the Sharks any glimmer of hope of making the five, while the point Rage gained was barely sufficient to guarantee their safety for one more season.

Rage withstood a second half Sutherland revival to hang on for a point, after leading 2-0 at the break.

Both teams had to make a number of changes, but the home side had reason to celebrate when 18 year old Coronel went on to score a hat-trick.

"He has been playing well in the midfield and is one of our juniors," explained Rage coach Robert D'Alessandro.

"We pushed him up front to partner Nenos Bobo and the two of them clicked.

"Our other strikers, like George Wakim and Kris Holbrook, have been out of form and once again it was our defence that let us down.

"We must have conceded three goals in six or seven of our games this season and maybe some players are not pulling their weight."

Coronel, who spent the summer in the Under 20s at Bonnyrigg, took his goals well, benefiting from the hard work of Bobo and the probing influence of Nahuel Arrarte, Ismael Arrarte and Luciano Berbis, in particular.

It all began with Rage on the offensive and the Sharks got stung in only the fourth minute.

Luciano Berbis swept the ball over from the byline to an unmarked Coronel at the far post, who slammed the ball home from close range. Sutherland lacked any penetration and fell further behind in the 38th minute.

Sutherland skipper George Souris dwelt on the ball inside his own six yard box, but with a defender free to pass to, the experienced campaigner elected to take on the wily Nahuel Arrarte and lost out.

Arrarte was then able to use his guile to square the ball into the middle for Coronel to finish with ease.

The Sharks best chances fell to Bakis and Chris Hunt, the latter foiled by the smart anticipation of Daniel Conway who had another strong game.

Western Rage	3
Sutherland Sharks	3

The second half was only six minutes old when Conway made a rare mistake, venturing outside the confines of his area with the ball in his hands.

Referee Craig Pearce ordered a free kick on the edge of the box, and Bakis cleverly lifted the ball over the wall and into the top left corner.

In the 67th minute, constant Sutherland pressure was rewarded with an equaliser.

Andrew Smith played a delightful diagonal through pass to the right, where Iain MacDonald turned nicely and smashed the ball low past Conway.

A minute later Rage were in front again, as a cross from the left by Ismael Arrarte found the unmarked Coronel at the far post, and his header was put away perfectly.

Sutherland launched wave after wave of assaults on the Rage goal as the game wound down and equalised in the 89th minute.

A ball from the right wasn't cleared adequately and fell to Bakis, who from 15 yards out slammed the ball home Sharks coach Stewart Porter was disappointed to see his top-five aspirations fade away.

"That's us finished now, the best we can hope for is sixth," Porter reflected after the game.

"We came back well, but it was not quite enough.

"I didn't read the riot act to them at half time; I just changed to three up front and the boys responded. Unfortunately we slipped up and let in another goal."

WESTERN RAGE vs SUTHERLAND SHARKS

WESTERN RAGE: 1 Daniel Conway – 14 Mick Losapio, 7 Sal Zullo (C), 18 Ray Mandic, 10 Lisandro Berbis - 8 Phil Pyliotis, 26 Nahuel Arrarte, 15 Ismael Arrarte (20 Dominic Oliverio 68), 10 Luciano Berbis – 11 Nenos Bobo (13 Peter Curjak 82), 12 Hugo Coronel (16 Daniel Duarte 90)

Subs not used: Adrian Vicano

Coach: Robert D'Alessandro.

SUTHERLAND SHARKS: 1 Kurt Van Arkkels – 4 Paul Karbon, 20 George Souris (C), 3 Ben Spruce (15 Mitchell Keen 88), 18 Daki Falcon (5 Peter Feehan 84) - 8 Andrew Smith, 16 Monte Pfrengle, 14 Chris Hunt, 10 Sasha Tirovski – 11 Iain MacDonald (17 Enzo Sansone 84), 19 Jim Bakis

Subs not used: Stewart Vella

Coach: Stewart Porter

Referee: Craig Pearce

Assistant Referees: Daniel Dewhurst and Dale Fuda **Yellow Cards:** Western Rage: P Pyliotis 65, N Arrarte 67; Sutherland Sharks: J Bakis 45

NSW WINTER SUPER LEAGUE
THE BATTLE FOR FINALS SPOTS

SOCCER NSW

HAPPY HAWKS CUT DOWN HIGH FLYING HAJDUK

Stanmore Hawks	1
Hajduk Wanderers	0

By Greg Stock

Stanmore Hawks claimed another big name scalp, as it was the turn of top-three aspirants Hajduk Wanderers United to be put to the sword, 1-0 at Pratten Park.

The form side of the competition, the Hawks have now gone an amazing eight games without defeat. If it wasn't for some poor early season form, Stanmore could well have been fighting it out for a top five position, instead of indulging in spots of giant-killing.

In an otherwise engrossing contest, it was a goal from Hawks midfielder David James that settled the issue. His 61st minute strike came from the edge of the penalty box after a perfect delivery from Sam Awad on the right hand side. James was able to lob goalkeeper Daniel Schwarzer, with enough on the ball to beat the covering defence and trickle into the net.

A worry for Hajduk coach Trevor Morgan will be the fitness of young midfielder Elsid Barkhousir, who was replaced after just 20 minutes with a shoulder injury, that could see him miss up to three weeks, following a clash with the Hawks' John Theodoropoulos.

The Wanderers require a win against the Premiers F.C.Bossy Liverpool next week, to have any chance of finishing inside the top three.

Hajduk captain Tim Gledhill tries to shield the ball from a Stanmore player

Hajduk coach Trevor Morgan will worry over the fitness of youngster Elsid Barkhousir, who was injured against Stanmore

GOAL ACE ALEX ICES TIGERS

F.C. Bossy Liverpool	3
Northern Tigers	1

By Greg Stock

A day out for F.C. Bossy Liverpool striker Alex Asanovic, has all but engraved his name on the Super League Golden Boot trophy, after he bagged another three goals to set up his side's 3-1 win over Northern Tigers.

Asanovic took his tally to 23 goals in 25 games, still five in front of his nearest rival, Dulwich Hill striker Ivo de Jesus, with just one game remaining.

In a season reminiscent of Tanju Balabanel's breakthrough year with Sydney Crescent Star in 2003, Asanovic is already fielding offers for the Premier League, despite showing only glimpses of his best work.

Two of his three goals against the Tigers were toe pokes, while the third was a mis-kick, which was misjudged by Tigers goalkeeper Dean McCreath and ended up being bundled over the line.

Asanovic could have had a fourth early in the second half after he unleashed a powerful drive from the edge of the area, but the goal was disallowed for offside. The win restored the Premiers 11 point lead at the top of the Winter Super League competition table.

Bossy captain Nihad Sehic (left) and team mate Damien Foxe (right) outnumber a Northern Tigers opponent

This banner says it all !!!

BERRIES BOSS BLASTS REF

Canterbury Marrickville	0
Macarthur Rams	2

By Greg Stock

The top three ambitions of Canterbury-Marrickville will be decided at Parklands Oval against Northern Tigers next Sunday afternoon, after a controversial send-off and an indifferent performance saw them beaten 2-0 by Macarthur Rams.

Berries coach Laki Konistis was in no doubt who was to blame for his side's second straight defeat, that leaves the club's post season ambitions in limbo.

"For the second week in a row a diabolical refereeing display has cost us the game," said Konistis.

"We haven't had a player sent off at all this year, and now for the second week in a row with the same referee, we have two."

Down 1-0 just two minutes into the second half, referee Alex Glasgow gave Berries midfielder Freddy Umlil a straight red card for an ugly tackle on his Rams opposite Daniel McCann.

In a tough often brutal encounter, it was a decision that turned the tide of the game toward the visitors, after a poor first half had left Canterbury with all the work to do.

After looking the more likely of the teams in the first 20 minutes, it was some poor finishing by Dimitri Zakilas and Josh Sama that had kept the Rams in the game and they were good enough to take a narrow half-time lead after Shane Hammond found the net in the 42nd minute.

Hammond was on the spot to smash a shot past goalkeeper Ivan Necevski at the second attempt, after his first was well blocked by Kelvin Foster.

But instead of caving into weight of numbers, the Berries brightest moments of the contest came during the second half when Macarthur Rams goalkeeper Frank Mikuletic was put under a mountain of pressure.

Paul Bourke, Aheleas Kotsopoulos and Zakilas peppered the veteran, but he managed to maintain his side's clean sheet, setting up their second goal with a long throw to McCann. He in turn set up Paul Wither, who cut inside to beat David Gardiner, and deftly beat Necevski in the final minutes of play.

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NSW PREMIER STATE & YOUTH RESULTS & TABLES

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE:
FINAL SERIES: ELIMINATION SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Mt Druitt Town 1 (own goal 82m) Belmore Hercules 0.

GRADE 20: Fairfield City Lions 0 Belmore Hercules 2.

PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Schofields Scorpions 2 (S Matayalo 60m Own goal 63m) Inter Lions 2 (N Tome 24m A Vizzari 53m) Win by penalties (Inter Lions won 4-1 penalties AET)

GRADE 20: Schofields Scorpions 2 Inter Lions 3.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE:
FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Fairfield City Lions	24	17	4	3	83	25	58	55
Inter Lions	24	17	3	4	72	22	50	54
Schofields Scorpions	24	16	3	5	59	26	33	51
Mt Druitt Town	24	14	2	8	49	35	14	44
Belmore Hercules	24	13	2	9	39	29	10	41
Mt Pritchard	24	11	4	9	46	35	11	37
Hills Brumbies	24	11	3	10	33	36	-3	36
Gladesville Spirit	24	10	5	9	30	39	-9	35
Ryde City	24	7	6	11	36	47	-11	27
White City	24	7	2	15	26	55	-29	23
Blacktown Spartans	24	6	4	14	37	63	-26	22
Bathurst '75	24	3	2	19	26	69	-43	11
Camden Tigers	24	2	4	18	17	72	-55	10

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE:
GRADE 20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Mt Pritchard	24	20	2	2	96	20	76	62
Schofields Scorpions	24	17	4	3	84	40	44	55
Inter Lions	24	15	5	4	54	32	22	50
Fairfield City Lions	24	14	3	7	79	43	36	45
Belmore Hercules	24	13	3	8	59	32	27	42
Gladesville Spirit	24	12	6	6	60	34	26	42
Hills Brumbies	24	11	7	6	58	29	29	40
Mt Druitt Town	24	9	3	12	53	57	-4	30
Camden Tigers	24	7	4	13	39	67	-28	25
Blacktown Spartans	24	6	3	15	33	63	-30	21
Ryde City	24	6	2	16	36	68	-32	20
White City	24	3	1	20	33	104	-71	10
Bathurst '75	24	1	1	22	21	116	-95	4

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO:
FINAL SERIES: MINOR SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Hakoah 4 Balmain SC 2 Win by penalties (0-0 Full Time 0-0 Extra Time).

GRADE 21: Fogolar Wanderers 2 Sydney Cedars SC 1.

GRADE 19: Sydney Cedars SC 2 Prospect United 1 Extra Time (1-1 Full Time).

MAJOR SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Springwood SC 0 University of NSW 2 (R Luca 61/68m).

GRADE 21: University of NSW 2 Hakoah 1 Extra Time (1-1 Full Time).

GRADE 19: University of NSW 0 Hakoah 3.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO:
FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Springwood	18	13	4	1	45	13	32	43
UNSW	18	12	5	1	43	13	30	41
Hakoah	18	11	4	3	35	15	20	37
Balmain	18	11	2	5	38	22	16	35
Sydney Cedars	18	8	4	6	31	28	3	28
Fogolar Wanderers	18	7	4	7	21	26	-5	25
Auburn Star	18	5	3	10	24	31	-7	18
Kellyville Kolts	18	3	3	12	28	38	-10	12
Greenisland	18	2	2	14	16	61	-45	8
Prospect United	18	2	1	15	12	46	-34	7

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO:
GRADE 21

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
UNSW	18	14	2	2	59	17	42	44
Hakoah	18	11	3	4	44	18	26	36
Fogolar Wanderers	18	10	4	4	45	36	9	34
Sydney Cedars	18	9	3	6	40	32	8	30
Prospect United	18	8	5	5	42	38	4	29
Springwood	18	6	5	7	31	32	-1	23
Kellyville Kolts	18	5	4	9	44	48	-4	19
Balmain	18	5	2	11	36	40	-4	17
Greenisland	18	3	2	13	28	74	-46	11
Auburn Star	18	2	4	12	25	59	-34	10

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO:
GRADE 19

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
UNSW	18	12	4	2	55	21	34	40
Hakoah	18	11	5	2	54	24	30	38
Sydney Cedars	18	10	4	4	59	35	24	34
Prospect United	18	8	6	4	44	30	14	30
Auburn Star	18	8	3	7	29	34	-5	27
Kellyville Kolts	17	6	5	6	42	33	9	23
Balmain	18	5	4	9	39	49	-10	19
Springwood	18	6	1	11	28	44	-16	19
Greenisland	17	4	3	10	37	55	-18	15
Fogolar Wanderers	18	1	1	16	24	86	-62	4

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE:
FINAL SERIES: MAJOR SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Colo Colo 0 Hawkesbury City 2.
RESERVE GRADE: Roosters FC 1 Hawkesbury City 0.

MINOR SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Gladesville United 4 Trasandinos 0.
RESERVE GRADE: Gladesville United 1 Trasandinos 2.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE:
FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Colo Colo	18	13	3	2	43	20	23	42
Hawkesbury City	18	10	4	4	52	28	24	34
Gladesville United	18	10	4	4	48	33	15	34
Trasandinos	18	10	3	5	61	23	38	33
Roosters FC	18	8	5	5	48	25	23	29
East Coast Magic	18	8	3	7	39	33	6	27
Gazy Lansvale	17	4	5	8	22	33	-11	17
Luddenham United	18	5	2	11	32	54	-22	17
Pratten Magpies	17	2	3	12	23	69	-46	9
Lithgow Workmen	18	2	2	14	15	65	-50	8

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION THREE:
RESERVE GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Roosters FC	18	12	5	1	51	21	30	41
Hawkesbury City	18	12	3	3	71	28	43	39
Gladesville United	18	10	3	5	48	29	19	33
Trasandinos	18	8	3	7	49	38	11	27
East Coast Magic	18	7	5	6	43	32	11	26
Colo Colo	18	7	4	7	41	43	-2	25
Luddenham United	18	5	2	11	19	69	-50	17
Pratten Magpies	17	4	4	9	29	36	-7	16
Gazy Lansvale	17	3	5	9	40	60	-20	14
Lithgow Workmen	18	2	4	12	22	57	-35	10

Arrive alive
NSW GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE:
FINAL SERIES:
ELIMINATION SEMI FINAL:

UNDER 12: Southern Branch 3 Northern Tigers 2.
UNDER 14: Penrith Nepean United 4 NWS Koalas 1.
UNDER 16: Central Coast United 1 Bathurst City 0.

PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL:

UNDER 12: Penrith Nepean United 2 Sutherland Association 1.
UNDER 14: Macarthur Rams 1 St George Saints 0.
UNDER 16: St George Saints 0 Penrith Nepean United 1.

Arrive alive
NSW GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE:
UNDER 12

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	D	Pt
Manly United FC	22	15	5	1	1	39	6	33	53
Penrith Nepean United	22	14	4	3	1	44	10	34	49
Sutherland Association	22	12	5	4	1	56	10	46	44
Southern Branch	22	12	5	4	1	38	13	25	44
Northern Tigers	22	11	3	6	2	48	21	27	42
Central Coast United	22	10	6	4	2	35	11	24	42
NW Sydney Koalas	22	11	4	6	1	31	16	15	40
Gladesville Ravens	22	8	3	9	2	29	29	0	33
Sydney University	22	8	0	12	2	37	39	-2	30
Macarthur Rams	22	7	5	9	1	26	32	-6	29
Marconi Stallions	22	6	4	11	1	32	41	-9	25
St George Saints	22	5	4	12	1	20	29	-9	22
Blacktown Association	22	3	3	14	2	20	36	-16	18
Bathurst City Panthers	22	2	3	15	2	14	53	-39	15
UNSW	22	2	2	16	2	12	69	-57	14

B denotes a Bye scoring 3 points and 3 Goal.

Arrive alive
NSW GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE:
UNDER 14

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	D	Pt
Sutherland Association	22	18	3	0	1	62	14	48	60
Macarthur Rams	22	16	5	0	1	62	14	48	56
St George Saints	22	14	3	4	1	50	15	35	48
Penrith Nepean United	22	14	2	5	1	55	20	35	47
NW Sydney Koalas	22	13	3	5	1	65	24	41	45
Central Coast United	22	12	0	8	2	43	25	18	42
Bathurst City Panthers	22	8	4	8	2	37	24	13	34
Manly United FC	22	8	5	8	1	37	38	-1	32
Northern Tigers	22	6	3	11	2	31	43	-12	27
Gladesville Ravens	22	5	3	12	2	30	56	-26	24
Marconi Stallions	22	6	2	13	1	38	40	-2	23
Southern Branch	22	3	8	10	1	22	37	-15	20
Blacktown Association	22	2	6	12	2	17	37	-20	18
Sydney University	22	3	2	15	2	20	62	-42	17
UNSW	22	1	1	18	2	16	70	-54	10

B denotes a Bye scoring 3 points and 3 Goal.

Arrive alive
NSW GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE:
UNDER 16

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	D	Pt
NW Sydney Koalas	22	19	2	0	1	95	11	84	62
St George Saints	22	15	4	2	1	62	16	46	52
Penrith Nepean United	22	15	2	4	1	50	26	24	50
Central Coast United	22	12	4	4	2	49	12	37	46
Bathurst City Panthers	22	12	2	6	2	61	21	40	44
Manly United FC	22	10	6	5	1	41	19	22	39
Southern Branch	22	9	4	8	1	32	30	2	34
Sutherland Association	22	9	3	9	1	45	25	20	33
Macarthur Rams	22	6	7	8	1	32	23	9	28
Blacktown Association	22	6	4	10	2	33	30	3	28
Marconi Stallions	22	6	4	11	1	32	34	-2	25
Northern Tigers	22	4	2	14	2	20	52	-32	20
Gladesville Ravens	22	3	3	14	2	27	72	-45	18
UNSW	22	1	4	15	2	12	61	-49	13
Sydney University	22	1	1	18	2	13	106	-93	10

B denotes a Bye scoring 3 points and 3 Goal.

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE:
FINAL SERIES:
PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL:

GRADE 13: Marconi Stallions 0 Parramatta Eagles 1 Extra Time (0-0 Full Time).

GRADE 14: Sydney United 0 Blacktown City 3.

GRADE 15: Parramatta Eagles 3 Bankstown City Cubs 0.

GRADE 16: Blacktown City 1 Sydney Olympic 0.

GRADE 18: Gladesville Spirit 0 Manly United FC 1 Extra Time (0-0 Full Time).

ELIMINATION SEMI FINAL:

GRADE 13: Macarthur Rams 3 Gladesville Spirit 4 Penalties (0-0 Full Time 0-0 Extra Time).

GRADE 14: Parramatta Eagles 1 A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 0 Extra Time (0-0 Full Time).

GRADE 15: Wollongong Wolves 0 St George 2.

GRADE 16: Parramatta Eagles 3 Bankstown City Cubs 0.

GRADE 18: Sutherland Shire 2 Parramatta Eagles 1 Extra Time (1-1 Full Time).

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE:
GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Blacktown City Demons	26	22	3	1	94	9	85	69
Marconi Stallions	26	22	3	1	86	8	78	69
Parramatta Eagles	26	17	5	4	73	20	53	56
Macarthur Rams	26	15	3	8	48	43	5	48
Gladesville Spirit	26	13	4	9	47	36	11	43
Wollongong Wolves	26	10	5	11	33	39	-6	35
Manly United FC	26	9	7	10	37	55	-18	34
St George Saints	26	10	3	13	36	56	-20	33
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	26	8	3	15	29	44	-15	27
Sydney United	26	7	5	14	25	53	-28	26
Sydney Olympic	26	6	7	13	27	51	-24	25
Bankstown City Cubs	26	6	4	16	20	50	-30	22
Sutherland Sharks	26	2	9	15	23	59	-36	15
Hajduk Wanderers Utd	26	2	5	19	16	71	-55	11

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE:
GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Marconi Stallions	26	19	4	3	55	8	47	61
Sydney United	26	18	5	3	62	24	38	59
Blacktown City Demons	26	18	4	4	46	18	28	58
Parramatta Eagles	26	17	3	6	54	21	33	54
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	26	15	3	8	41	20	21	48
Bankstown City Cubs	26	14	4	8	36	29	7	46
Manly United FC	26	12	3	11	47	35	12	39
Hajduk Wanderers Utd	26	10	8	8	29	22	7	38
Sutherland Sharks	26	8	4	14	28	51	-23	28
Sydney Olympic	26	3	9	14	22	46	-24	18
St George Saints	26	4	5	17	23	46	-23	17
Wollongong Wolves	26	4	5	17	26	67	-41	17
Gladesville Spirit	26	2	9	15	9	44	-35	15
Macarthur Rams	26	2	6	18	11	58	-47	12

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE:
GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Marconi Stallions	26	18	7	1	47	11	36	61
Parramatta Eagles	26	15	4	7	47	27	20	49
Bankstown City Cubs	26	14	7	5	42	26	16	49
Wollongong Wolves	26	15	3	8	41	27	14	48
St George Saints	26	12	9	5	47	30	17	45
Sutherland Sharks	26	12	8	6	50	32	18	44
Blacktown City Demons	26	12	7	7	32	22	10	43
Gladesville Spirit	26	11	7	8	33	16	17	40
Sydney Olympic	26	8	6	12	20	37	-17	30
Sydney United	26	7	8	11	25	36	-11	29
Manly United FC	26	8	1	17	27	46	-19	25
Macarthur Rams	26	4	5	17	20	50	-30	17
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	26	2	7	17	11	42	-31	13
Hajduk Wanderers Utd	26	4	1	21	17	57	-40	13

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE:
GRADE 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Gladesville Spirit	26	17	6	3	41	10	31	57
Blacktown City Demons	26	15	10	1	47	20	27	55
Sydney Olympic	26	15	4	7	46	26	20	49
Parramatta Eagles	26	14	6	6	36	21	15	48
Bankstown City Cubs	26	15	3	8	32	17	15	48
Marconi Stallions	26	14	4	8	41	16	25	46
Macarthur Rams	26	9	5	12	26	33	-7	32
Hajduk Wanderers Utd	26	8	7	11	31	37	-6	31
Sutherland Sharks	26	8	6	12	23	36	-13	30
Wollongong Wolves	26	8	4	14	28	35	-7	28
Sydney United	26	8	3	15	27	39	-12	27
St George Saints	26	7	3	16	21	50	-29	24
Manly United FC	26	4	6	16	18	49	-31	18
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	26	1	11	14	14	42	-28	14

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE:
GRADE 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Marconi Stallions	26	17	5	4	56	27	29	56
Gladesville Spirit	26	15	5	6	52	24	28	50
Manly United FC	26	14	7	5	55	41	14	49
Sutherland Sharks	26	15	3	8	69	41	28	48
Parramatta Eagles	26	15	2	9	52	30	22	47
Sydney Olympic	26	13	6	7	54	41	13	45
Blacktown City Demons	26	10	8	8	34	31	3	38
Wollongong Wolves	26	9	8	9	45	41	4	35
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	26	9	6	11	36	48	-12	33
Hajduk Wanderers Utd	26	8	4	14	36	58	-22	28
Bankstown City Cubs	26	6	4	16	30	52	-22	22
Sydney United	26	5	6	15	38	57	-19	21
St George Saints	26	4	8	14	31	68	-37	20
Macarthur Rams	26	3	6	17	32	61	-29	15

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE:
CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Marconi Stallions	130	90	23	17	285	70	215	293
Blacktown City	130	77	32	21	253	100	153	263
Parramatta Eagles	130	78	20	32	262	119	143	254
Gladesville Spirit	130	58	31	41	182	130	52	205
Bankstown City Cubs	130	55	22	53	160	174	-14	187
Sydney Olympic	130	45	32	53	169	201	-32	167
Sutherland Sharks	130	45	30	55	193	219	-26	165
Manly United FC	130	47	24	59	184	226	-42	165
Wollongong Wolves	130	46	25	59	173	209	-36	163
Sydney United	130	45	27	58	177	209	-32	162
St George Saints	130	37	28	65	158	250	-92	139
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	130	35	30	65	131	196	-65	135
Macarthur Rams	130	33	25	72	137	245	-108	124
Hajduk Wanderers Utd	130	32	25	73	129	245	-116	121

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 22

GRADE 13: Northern Tigers 0 Fraser Park 1, Schofields Scorpions 4 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Granville Rage 1 Hills Brumbies 1, Central Coast United 0 Dulwich Hill 0, Penrith Nepean United 2 Parramatta Star 1, Southern Branch 0 Bathurst 75 Western 0.

GRADE 14: Northern Tigers 2 Fraser Park 2, Schofields Scorpions 3 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Granville Rage 1 Hills Brumbies 0, Central Coast United 5 Dulwich Hill 0, Penrith Nepean United 1 Parramatta Star 0, Southern Branch 0 Bathurst 75 Western 2.

GRADE 15: Northern Tigers 1 Fraser Park 1, Schofields Scorpions 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Granville Rage 3 Hills Brumbies 0, Central Coast United 3 Dulwich Hill 3, Penrith Nepean United 3 Parramatta Star 0, Southern Branch 1 Bathurst 75 Western 1.

GRADE 16: Northern Tigers 2 Fraser Park 2, Schofields Scorpions 1 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Granville Rage 0 Hills Brumbies 0, Central Coast United 2 Dulwich Hill 4, Penrith Nepean United 2 Parramatta Star 1, Southern Branch 8 Bathurst 75 Western 0.

GRADE 18: Northern Tigers 1 Fraser Park 3, Schofields Scorpions 0 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Granville Rage 1 Hills Brumbies 2, Central Coast United 4 Dulwich Hill 2, Penrith Nepean United 7 Parramatta Star 0, Southern Branch 4 Bathurst 75 Western 0.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 22
GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Schofields Scorpions	22	14	4	4	35	16	19	46
Penrith Nepean United	22	12	8	2	37	15	22	44
Central Coast United	22	12	7	3	36	11	25	43
Fraser Park	22	9	8	5	27	17	10	35
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	22	9	5	8	31	28	3	32
Dulwich Hill	22	8	6	8	37	35	2	30
Southern Branch	22	5	9	8	19	21	-2	24
Granville Rage	22	5	9	8	33	45	-12	24
Bathurst '75 Western	22	4	10	8	14	24	-10	22
Northern Tigers	22	5	6	11	15	36	-21	21
Parramatta Star	22	4	7	11	27	36	-9	19
Hills Brumbies	22	4	3	15	17	44	-27	15

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 22
GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Parramatta Star	22	18	2	2	52	17	35	56
Schofields Scorpions	22	14	3	5	54	19	35	45
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	22	11	4	7	32	16	16	37
Southern Branch	22	11	3	8	37	36	1	36
Central Coast United	22	10	4	8	32	29	3	34
Bathurst '75 Western	22	9	5	8	36	34	2	32
Granville Rage	22	9	4	9	34	29	5	31
Fraser Park	22	8	5	9	31	20	11	29
Penrith Nepean United	22	7	8	7	27	29	-2	29
Hills Brumbies	22	4	6	12	15	35	-20	18
Northern Tigers	22	3	5	14	28	57	-29	14
Dulwich Hill	22	2	3	17	17	74	-57	9

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 22
GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Schofields Scorpions	22	13	5	4	42	25	17	44
Penrith Nepean United	22	10	7	5	27	17	10	37
Bathurst '75 Western	22	10	7	5	31	23	8	37
Fraser Park	22	10	5	7	27	27	0	35
Central Coast United	22	10	4	8	46	35	11	34
Granville Rage	22	10	3	9	32	30	2	33
Southern Branch	22	8	7	7	34	30	4	31
Dulwich Hill	22	7	7	8	29	26	3	28
Hills Brumbies	22	8	3	11	25	32	-7	27
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	22	6	6	10	22	28	-6	24
Northern Tigers	22	4	8	10	23	30	-7	20
Parramatta Star	22	3	4	15	18	53	-35	13

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 22
GRADE 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Northern Tigers	22	15	5	2	62	20	42	50
Schofields Scorpions	22	15	3	4	57	18	39	48
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	22	14	6	2	52	30	22	48
Penrith Nepean United	22	14	2	6	49	23	26	44
Hills Brumbies	22	11	6	5	36	24	12	39
Fraser Park	22	9	4	9	31	34	-3	31
Dulwich Hill	22	9	3	10	39	39	0	30
Southern Branch	22	7	3	12	33	46	-13	24
Parramatta Star	22	4	7	11	33	45	-12	19
Granville Rage	22	4	4	14	18	44	-26	16
Bathurst '75 Western	22	4	2	16	20	68	-48	14
Central Coast United	22	2	3	17	21	60	-39	9

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 22
GRADE 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Penrith Nepean United	22	22	0	0	89	14	75	66
Fraser Park	22	15	1	6	48	34	14	46
Central Coast United	22	14	2	6	54	37	17	44
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	22	13	3	6	65	33	32	42
Parramatta Star	22	12	2	8	48	48	0	38
Schofields Scorpions	22	10	3	9	54	52	2	33
Granville Rage	22	9	2	11	48	44	4	29
Hills Brumbies	22	9	2	11	37	44	-7	29
Dulwich Hill	22	5	2	15	30	59	-29	17
Northern Tigers	22	4	3	15	31	60	-29	15
Bathurst '75 Western	22	5	0	17	21	78	-57	15
Southern Branch	22	3	2	17	39	61	-22	11

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 22
CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Penrith Nepean Utd	110	65	25	20	229	98	131	220
Schofields Scorpions	110	66	18	26	242	130	112	216
Bonnyrigg WE	110	53	24	33	202	135	67	180
Fraser Park	110	51	23	36	164	132	32	176
Central Coast Utd	110	48	20	42	189	172	17	164
Parramatta Star	110	41	22	47	178	199	-21	145
Granville Rage	110	37	22	51	165	192	-27	133
Hills Brumbies	110	36	20	54	130	179	-49	128
Southern Branch	110	34	24	52	162	194	-32	126
Northern Tigers	110	31	27	52	159	203	-44	120
Bathurst '75 Western	110	32	24	54	122	227	-105	120
Dulwich Hill	110	31	21	58	152	233	-81	114

DEVELOPMENT YOUTH LEAGUE:
FINAL SERIES:
GRAND FINAL:

GRADE 13: Belmore Hercules 1 Camden Tigers 0.
GRADE 14: Mt Druitt Town 2 Ryde City 1.
GRADE 15: Mt Druitt Town 0 Rockdale City Suns 3.
GRADE 16: Ryde City 2 Hurstville City Minotaurs 3 Extra Time (2-2 Full Time).

DEVELOPMENT YOUTH LEAGUE:
GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Belmore Hercules	21	12	8	1	47	16	31	44
Camden Tigers	21	11	5	5	56	29	27	38
Hurstville City Minotaurs	21	10	4	7	42	30	12	34
Rockdale City Suns	21	9	7	5	24	17	7	34
Blacktown Spartans	21	10	3	8	36	34	2	33
Mt Druitt Town	21	7	7	7	30	31	-1	28
Ryde City	21	2	5	14	16	62	-46	11
Sydney University	21	2	3	16	31	63	-32	9

DEVELOPMENT YOUTH LEAGUE:
GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Mt Druitt Town	21	19	1	1	55	10	45	58
Sydney University	21	14	3	4	66	24	42	45
Rockdale City Suns	21	9	4	8	31	25	6	31
Ryde City	21	7	3	11	22	40	-18	24
Blacktown Spartans	21	5	6	10	28	40	-12	21
Camden Tigers	21	6	2	13	25	48	-23	20
Hurstville City Minotaurs	21	4	7	10	16	35	-19	19
Belmore Hercules	21	3	8	10	19	40	-21	17

DEVELOPMENT YOUTH LEAGUE:
GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Mt Druitt Town	21	15	3	3	43	18	25	48
Rockdale City Suns	20	12	6	2	38	12	26	42
Ryde City	21	11	3	7	38	27	11	36
Belmore Hercules	21	9	8	4	28	19	9	35
Sydney University	21	6	7	8	23	25	-2	25
Blacktown Spartans	21	4	6	11	19	34	-15	18
Camden Tigers	20	5	2	13	23	42	-19	17
Hurstville City Minotaurs	21	2	3	16	18	53	-35	9

DEVELOPMENT YOUTH LEAGUE:
GRADE 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Ryde City	21	16	3	2	63	12	51	51
Hurstville City Minotaurs	21	12	6	3	33	13	20	42
Camden Tigers	21	9	5	7	31	30	1	32
Belmore Hercules	21	9	4	8	30	30	0	31
Rockdale City Suns	21	8	5	8	26	31	-5	29
Mt Druitt Town	21	7	4	10	25	36	-11	25
Blacktown Spartans	21	5	3	13	19	32	-13	18
Sydney University	21	2	2	17	22	65	-43	8

attack METROPOLITAN LEAGUE:
FINAL SERIES:
PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL:

GRADE 11: Sutherland Association 0 St George Association 1.

GRADE 12: Southern Districts 4 Granville Association 0.

ELIMINATION SEMI FINAL:

GRADE 11: Macarthur Association 0 Illawarra Association 1.

GRADE 12: Illawarra Association 0 Manly Association 1.

attack METROPOLITAN LEAGUE:
GRADE 11 FINAL SERIES:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Blacktown Association	22	17	4	1	58	14	44	55
Sutherland Association	22	16	4	2	75	17	58	52
St George Assoc	22	16	3	3	49	16	33	51
Macarthur	22	14	8	0	43	14	29	50
Illawarra	22	11	5	6	38	24	14	38
Granville	22	10	5	7	35	26	9	35
Canterbury	22	10	3	9	29	38	-9	33
Nepean Association	22	8	6	8	37	29	8	30
Eastern Suburbs	22	7	7	8	31	32	-1	28
Manly Warringah	22	7	5	10	31	39	-8	26
Southern Districts	22	6	6	10	23	35	-12	24
Bankstown Assoc	22	7	2	13	18	43	-25	23
Gladesville Hornsby	22	4	7	11	33	34	-1	19
Ku-Ring-Gai Association	22	2	4	16	16	60	-44	10
Southern Branch	22	1	5	16	12	50	-38	8
Central Coast Assoc	22	0	6	16	9	66	-57	6

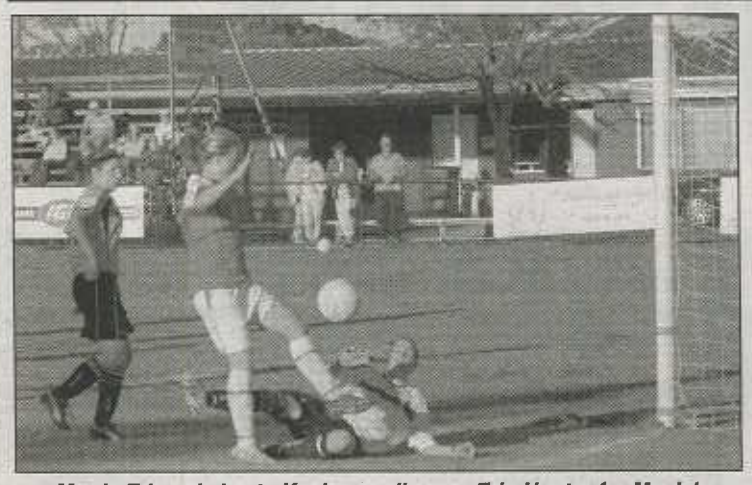
attack METROPOLITAN LEAGUE
GRADE 12 FINAL SERIES:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Blacktown Association	22	18	3	1	71	11	60	57
Southern Districts	22	15	3	4	59	17	42	48
Granville	22	15	3	4	52	23	29	48
Illawarra	22	13	3	6	40	21	19	42
Manly Warringah	22	13	2	7	43	25	18	41
Nepean Association	22	12	4	6	41	40	1	40
St George Assoc	22	10	5	7	27	25	2	35
Macarthur	22	8	6	8	26	30	-4	30
Gladesville Hornsby	22	8	6	8	30	35	-5	30
Sutherland Association	22	9	1	12	27	39	-12	28
Canterbury	22	7	3	12	18	25	-7	24
Central Coast Assoc	22	5	4	13	20	41	-21	19
Ku-Ring-Gai Association	22	5	3	14	20	41	-21	18
Bankstown Assoc	22	3	5	14	16	45	-29	14
Eastern Suburbs	22	3	4	15	15	50	-35	13
Southern Branch	22	1	7	14	6	43	-37	10

Arrive alive NSW WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE FINALS SERIES

Arrive alive NSW WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

MANLY UPSETS KOALAS



Mardy Edwards beats Koalas goalkeeper Erin Hunter for Manly's first goal

Sarah Gregorius scored one goal and set up the other as third placed Manly United FC upset second placed NWS Koalas in the Preliminary Final at Jensen Park.

The Koalas had been undefeated for 19 games, whilst Manly were coming off a defeat by Marconi the previous week.

Manly will get a quick shot at revenge as it plays Marconi in next Sunday's Major Semi-Final.

The game started with Manly applying pressure on NWS by limiting their time-on the ball and anticipating their passes. Manly seemd to find space and time as they controlled the midfield battle and quickly began attacking the Koalas goal.

The game was only eight minutes old when Gregorius unlocked the oppositions defence with an angled through ball that Mardy Edwards met at the far post and netted. This was followed by further pressure from Manly as NWS struggled to control the ball.

Their passes went astray and they were continually forced back in defence. Their first, and only true chance of the first-half, fell to Danni Calvi, when she latched onto a glancing header, but her attempt was straight at Manly keeper Aroon Clauncy.

Manly forced numerous corners, with Gregorius causing a few flutters in the NWS defence when she touched on one of Kelly Parsons corners, only for the ball to go wide of the near post. Half-time could not come quick enough for the Koalas' coaching staff as they tried to repair their structure.

The second half commenced with Koalas looking a little better organised, but Manly struck early again, when they used the same ploy to break the defence.

This time Elyce Bates threaded a through ball to Gregorius, who calmly placed the ball past Erin Hunter. This sparked a short period of Koala activity in which Jess Palmer went close with an angled shot from the right.

However Manly's superiority resurfaced and they continued to beat NWS to the ball. Leanne Taylor forced a good save from Hunter, as they continued to search for the killer goal.

Michael Beckett, NWS Koalas Coach, took off Simone Grahame and replaced her with Amanda Newby, who added some spark and aggression to the Koala's cause.

However Manly held firm and ran out thoroughly deserving winners.

Manly were obviously happy with the good win, whilst Beckett felt the better and hungrier team had won and his team needed to regroup for a tough encounter with Southern Branch next Saturday.

Preliminary Semi-Final
NWS KOALAS 0 MANLY UNITED FC 2

Jess Palmer (Koalas, left) is pursued by Kelly Parsons (Manly, centre) and another United player

SOUTHERN BRANCH ADVANCE

Two second half goal enabled fifth-placed Southern Branch to beat fourth-placed Macarthur Rams 2-0 in the Elimination Semi-Final at Francis Park.

The game was played very tight in the midfield with very few chances created by either side in the first half and they went into the break 0-0.

The second half began the same way until about the 60th minute, when Southern Branch defender Johnson had a mistimed shot that looped over the Rams 'keeper, then went into the net putting Southern Branch 1-0 up.

Elimination Semi-Final
MACARTHUR RAMS 0 SOUTHERN BRANCH 2

The Rams began to attack more insearch of an equaliser and where unlucky not to score from a Vanessa Mann header, but the Southern Branch goalkeeper made a great reflex save.

The Rams pushed more players forward and as a result where punished with a great counter attack down the right wing and Southern Branch striker Meeham superbly finished from a first time low cross.

Both teams played in a good spirit and were closely matched all day.

Southern Branch move forward in their Elimination Semi-Final against Macarthur Rams

Arrive alive NSW WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

Finals Series

ELIMINATION SEMI FINAL

FIRST GRADE: Macarthur Rams 0 Southern Branch 2 (S Johnston K Meehan).

GRADE 21: Bathurst City 6 NWS Koalas 7 Penalties (2-2 Full Time 2-2 Extra Time).

PRELIMINARY SEMI FINAL

FIRST GRADE: NWS Koalas 0 Manly United FC 2 (M Edwards 6m S Gregorius 51m).

GRADE 21: Manly United FC 4 Sutherland Association 1.

MAJOR SEMI-FINAL
(WINNER THROUGH TO GRAND FINAL)
Sunday August 28
Marconi v Manly United FC at Jensen Park Clapham Road
Sefton 4:00pm kick off

MINOR SEMI-FINAL
Saturday August 27
NWS Koalas v Southern Branch. Francis Park No2 Richmond Road Blacktown 4:00pm kick off

TALES FROM THE GRASSROOTS

"As Good as it Gets" - Redfield's victorious U16s squad

This is a story of courage. And of perseverance. It's the tale of an Under 16s football team by the name of Redfield College, just one of the many squads comprising the Gladesville Hornsby Football Association - a region boasting 36,000 registered players.

In a season plagued with injuries, the Redfield U16s achieved what no other team in the history of the club has.

Over 14 gruelling weeks on the road to the first division finals, Redfield was without its starting eleven for 13 matches. On five occasions, the coach was forced to use players from younger age groups, even resorting to recruiting boys from the U12s.

After securing eight wins, three draws and three losses, it was on to the championship round robin series. With only ten regulars available, Redfield again faced a seemingly impossible task.

In keeping with their season so far, once again they pulled through.

It goes without saying that the team and their coach, Anthony Eid have performed well beyond expectations. Their story is truly inspirational, especially after learning coach Eid has never played the game or coached a soccer team in his life.

After 20 gruelling weeks, Eid revealed how he managed to guide his team to the final in spite of overwhelming setbacks.

"With a smile, a few special techniques, a great deal of effort and work from our football staff, the club, the parents, the players themselves,"Eid said.

"We applied the lessons we learnt along the way. Most importantly, we followed the values of belief, faith; integrity, character; commitment and sacrifice just to name a few."

Eid is in the process of completing his journal on the experience. The struggles, the wins, the losses, the frustrations and elations have all been chronicled.

Indeed Eid couldn't have asked for a better ending.

At the weekend, Redfield defeated defending premiers West Pennant Hills/Cherrybrook 3 - 0 in the final.

A fairytale ending for sure. According to Eid, Redfield's season really was "As good as it gets."

TRIP OF A LIFE TIME

SOCCER NSW

Soccer NSW in conjunction with COERVER Coaching are seeking interested female players in the U13, U14 and U15 age categories to take part in its "Trip of a Lifetime" promotion.

The tour to England and Scotland will feature games against the best female youth teams the UK has to offer.

This once in a lifetime opportunity is available to players born in 1990, 1991 and 1992, who would like to trial for a representative side to play competitive games and training sessions.

The tour will be conducted from 16-28 January 2006.

COERVER Coaching will select 16 players in each age group to tour in January 2006.

COST

- $6000 per person
- Parents are welcome to travel with the team ($6000 per travelling parent)

Please mail or fax the form below if interested in trialling for the tour.

FAX: 02 8814 44 84
PO Box 6146 Baulkham Hills BC 2153

Player's Name: _____
(Please print neatly)
Touring Parent: _____
(Please print neatly)
Address: _____
_____ Post Code: _____
Date of Birth: _____ Phone: _____
Mobile: _____ E-Mail: _____

COERVER COACHING AUSTRALIA

COERVER COACHING SYDNEY DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

The Coerver Development Academy is now accepting applications from boys and girls to trial for three of its development programs. These programs will target squads from U8 right through to U13+.

They include:

SYDNEY PROJECT 2014

Coerver Coaching will select a combination squad of players aged 12 and 13 (Born in 1994/93). It is hoped the foundations will be built so these players may one day represent Australia at the 2014 World Cup.

SYDNEY DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

This is for boys and girls in the U/8 (Born 98), U/9 (Born 97) and U/10 (Born 96) age categories. The top 18 players in each category will form the Sydney Development Academy

SYDNEY SENIOR POSTSEASON DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

This program is aimed at players aged 11 to 14 years. The focus will be on intensive training for the off-season (October to January).

All trials to be held at:

Valentine Sports Park
Meurants Lane, Glenwood
Saturday 3rd September & Sunday, 4th September

Players have the option to trial either on Saturday, on Sunday or both days.

For further information (fees, etc), please contact Paul Bentvelzen at the Coerver Coaching Office during business hours on 8814 4436 or 8814 4434.

SOCCER NSW FUTSAL

SUMMER COMPETITIONS STARTING SOON

ALL AGES, ALL LEVELS, PLAY FOR THE COMPETITION OR JUST FOR FUN.

BOYS, GIRLS, MEN, LADIES OR MIXED TEAMS

COMPETITIONS: LOCAL, STATE TITLES, PREMIER LEAGUE, NATIONAL TITLES, REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS.

IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS, IMPROVE YOUR FITNESS, AND HAVE LOTS OF FUN!

BANKSTOWN	HOMEBUSH	PENRITH
BATEMANS BAY	HURSTVILLE	RIVERSTONE
BLACKTOWN	KATOOMBA	ROCKDALE
BONNYRIGG	KELLYVILLE	RYDE
CAMPBELLTOWN	LIVERPOOL	SHOALHAVEN
DURAL	MARRICKVILLE	ST CLAIR
EPPING	MASCOT	SUTHERLAND
FIVE DOCK	NORTHERN BEACHES	SYDNEY UNI
GLEBE	NORTH RYDE	TEMPE
GOSFORD	NORTH SYDNEY	WINDSOR
GREENACRE	PARKLEA	WOLLONGONG

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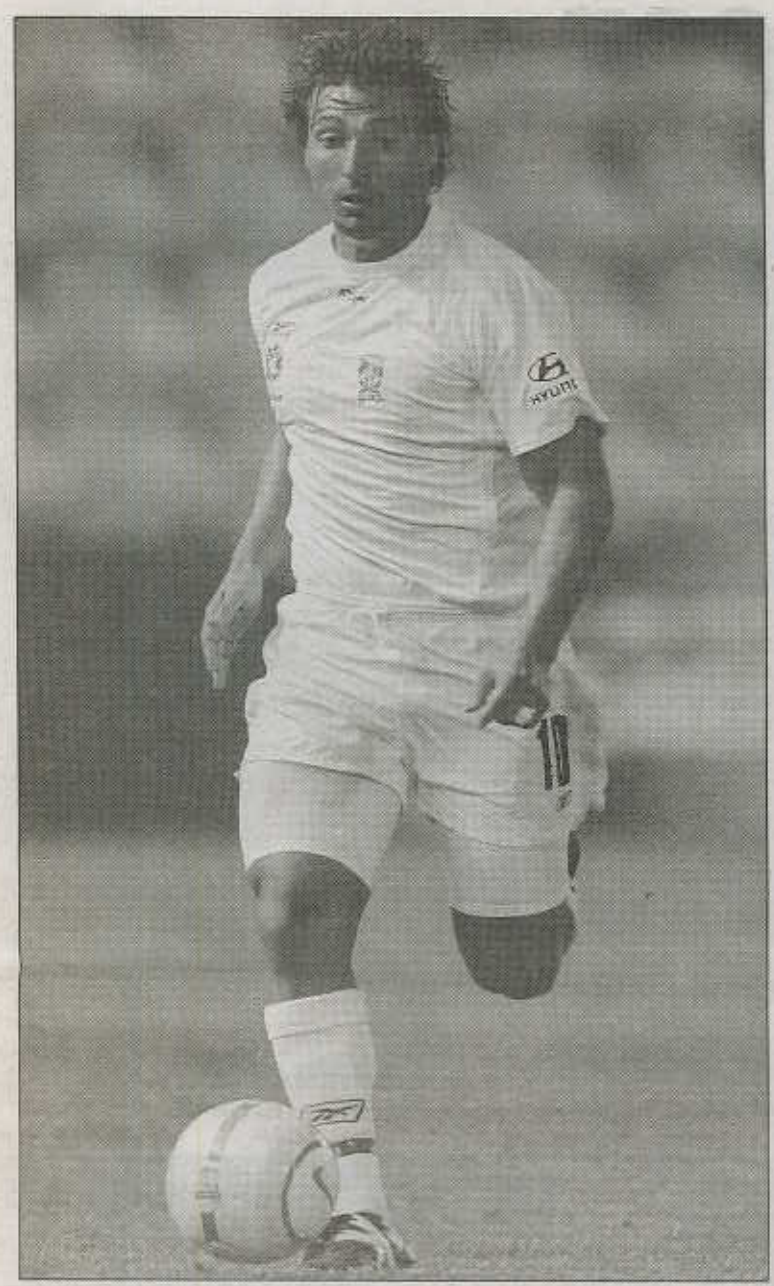
EMAIL: futsal@soccernsw.com.au

NEWCASTLE UTD JETS

Jets still learning to fly



A lot of Newcastle's play will centre around clever ball player Nick Carle

By Peter Damalas

A disastrous pre-season blighted by injuries means that the Newcastle United Jets have slipped down the pecking order in terms of A-League favouritism. But the squad- on paper at least- look quite solid across the field.

The challenge for coach Richard Money will be to move on from the difficulties encountered already.

Money was the final coach appointed in the A-League this year; thus, the Englishman was put back somewhat getting to terms with the Australian game.

Richard has had the help and guidance of assistant Jean Paul de Marigny, who's knowledge on the game here in this country is no doubt a positive for both the new manager and also the club.

Jets have immense quality going forward- the samba man himself Nick Carle provides the creativity, and probably Australia's most lethal striker, Ante Milicic the goals, and also Franco Parisi who provides the speed and excitement off the bench.

Milicic holds a major key in the Jets squad, his consistency in front of goals was sorely missed through his absence during their pre-season campaign.

The re-developed Energy Australia Stadium will hope to be packed to the rafters for the first ever A-League match this Friday

Defenders Craig Deans and Paul Kohler are class man-markers but may be exposed by quick fire strikers, while likely sweeper and club captain Ned Zelic will bring all his experience to the table as he attempts to rekindle his fledgling Socceroo prospects.

Zelic has had the tough task of living up to his reputation as being one of Australia's best ever players – no doubt he's composure and calmness on the ball alone is enough to settle any side.

Socceroo hopeful Jade North is another name that could make a huge name for himself with a few notable seasons under the Jets.

Elsewhere, livewire midfielder Labinot Haliti, Young Socceroo Stuart Musialik, Matt Thompson and Jobe Wheelhouse (currently injured) will be difficult to contain and will both shield the defence and prompt attacks.

Returning journeyman Richard Johnson will also be a player that the club has heralded a lot of expectations on.

When striker Ante Milicic fires, so do the Jets!

Having played a considerable amount of time in England, most notably Watford during their EPL years, his hard-working ethic will be one the side will need to look forward to.

One player that has shone out of no where has been that of former Sydney United defender Allan Picken.

Picken has won a 3-month deal with the Jets after Andrew Durante was on the receiving end of a horrific pre-season challenge by Mariners attacker Nick Mrdja.

So far, Picken has proved more than his worth and has won the seal approval from both the coach and club on his efforts.

In goals, Liam Reddy will seek to further his growing reputation, however it looks as though the goalkeeping services will go to 35-year-old Andy Petterson.

A rich career which saw Andy play over 16 seasons of football in England, he's experience alone will be a major bonus to Money's squad.

Under Money's leadership, the Jets are likely to play an aggressive brand of football which seeks to capitalise on an energetic, combative midfield and Carle's clever feet.

Home Ground: Only a few kilometres from the Newcastle city centre Energy Australia Stadium is home to the Newcastle United Jets and Newcastle Knights. In the past this recently redeveloped stadium has also hosted rugby union matches and motocross events.

Biggest Threat: Ante Milicic is known to many as one of the greatest goalscorers of the National Soccer League era will no doubt continue his success in the A-League.

The only negative aspect on the star striker's game is his vulnerability in getting injured. Many people believed that without Ante, the Jets are half the side, this theory proved correct during their dreadful pre-season campaign.

Biggest Worry: Newcastle United's attack is merely half the side when Milicic is not around which means strikers such as Franco Parisi and Englishman Guy Bates need to be at their very best in making the goals flow for the hopeful high flying Jets.

ABSW Prediction: Will finish just outside the semi-final reckoning in fifth place as the squad may struggle to cope in the early rounds.

Respect will also be on the line when they entertain rivals Central Coast Mariners, who in their current form, will be tough to beat.

Newcastle United Jets Squad:

1 - Liam Reddy
2 - Steve Eagleton
3 - Jade North
4 - Craig Deans
5 - Ned Zelic - CAPTAIN
6 - Andrew Durante
7 - Richard Johnson
8 - Matt Thompson
9 - Ante Milicic
10 - Nick Carle
11 - Guy Bates
12 - Paul Kohler
13 - Mateo Corbo
14 - Jobe Wheelhouse (NU) **
15 - Stuart Musialik **
16 - Labinot Haliti
17 - Franco Parisi
18 - Brett Studman **
19 - Mark Bridge**
20 - Andy Petterson

SHORT TERM CONTRACTS:
21.Tarek Elrich
(for Jobe Wheelhouse)
22.Allan Picken
(for Andrew Durante)

** Under 20s players.*

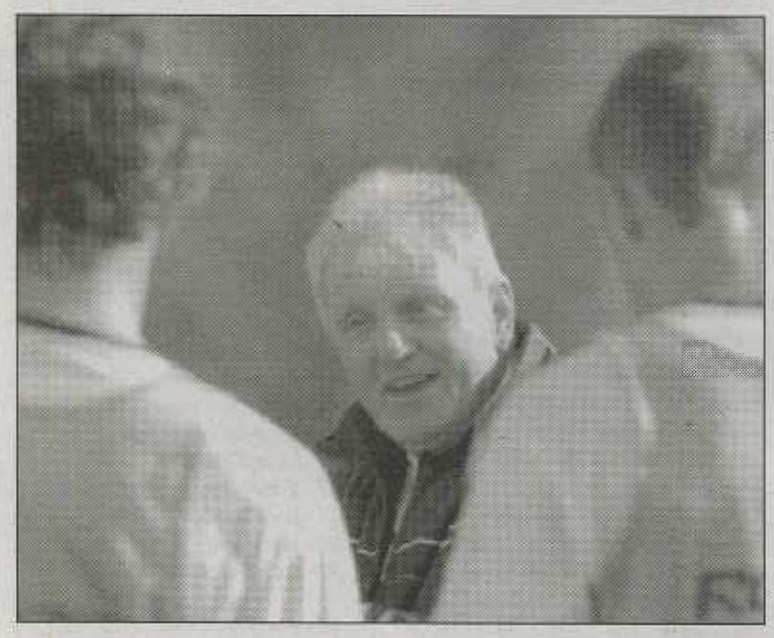
Head Coach: Richard Money
Assistant Coach: John Paul de Marigny
***All players listed have their official squad numbers beside them**

Look to see the continued rise of Jets defender Jade North in the A-League this year

A-LEAGUE

NEW ZEALAND KNIGHTS

Kiwis want to avoid the dreaded wooden spoon



New Zealand Knights coach John Adshead will be rallying his troops away from a wooden spoon finish this year

By Mark Stavroulakis

Unless coach John Adshead can prove me wrong, his side during its pre-season hit-out looked more likely to finish at the foot of this year's A-League table.

No doubt a number of injuries to key players did play a role in this, but the side showed little more than anything that they will be competitive this season.

Harsh words so early in the season, the Knights could however use this to their advantage in proving everybody in Australia wrong.

"As I have said throughout the pre-season I have every confidence in this squad of players. Their attitudes have been first class and the optimism in the squad is growing daily. Knowing we are yet to try a number of options gives us cause for a positive outlook. When I have a fully fit squad and choice in key areas of the park, the public and media will see the true potential of this side," Adshead said.

Capable of winning, the side is well known for being the biggest importer of new overseas players with no less than eight players from beyond the New Zealand and Australian shores.

Former Leeds United keeper Danny Milosevic will be one of the busiest custodians this year, but his experience at top European level will be called upon by the Knights.

Big central defender and captain Danny Hay will be marshalling his troops from the back, but the most interesting aspect from their back-line will be that of right full-back Darren Bazeley and left full-back Ronnie Bull.

Bazeley, a former England Under 21 international spent his past seasons playing in the lower leagues of England while the surname Bull pretty much sums him up.

The one department the Knights will be strong at is their midfield.

Six known central midfielders will contest for a starting spot but at this stage it looks as though Neil Emblen and Chinese Under 23 international Xiaobin Zhang will be the pick of the bunch.

Adshead has stated that their Asian star will be a player the league must take note of this year.

Having spent the past three seasons at Stockport County, the 'excitement machine' is here to bring his name back once more via the A-League.

Aussie boys, who no doubt will be coping a fair bit of funny banter from their new side is Josh Maguire and Zenon Caravella, who will also be midfielders to watch out for.

One of the Knights most consistent players thus far has been that of former Brisbane Strikers right midfielder, Steve Fitzsimmons.

Look for 'Fitzy' to share the tough workload alongside Kiwi international Noah Hickey.

In the goalscoring department, former Lincoln City striker and the Knights number 9 will hope to form a strong partnership alongside ex-Millwall man Sean Devine.

The Knights have a point to prove that they weren't a mistake in being selected as part of football's new era so look to see that driving spirit be a telling point in the outcome of the year.

Also, their new affiliation with English Premier League side Charlton Athletic could open new avenues for the Kiwi club in terms of borrowing and developing players.

Home Ground: "North Harbour Stadium is the obvious home for the Knights, said CEO Guy Hedderwick. "Aside from our already strong and developing partnership with New Zealand Soccer, the stadium offers great spectator comfort, media facilities and importantly appeals to the players from a playing, training and atmosphere perspective. Gone are the days of not knowing from one year to the next where we will be based, our fans deserve better than that. North Harbour Stadium will be our home."

Biggest Threat: The New Zealand Knights' Chinese international Xiaobin Zhang fits the bill as being the side's most important player.

The Kiwi media have wrapped up Zhang as one of the best that has ever come to New Zealand so look to see his skills on show.

Biggest Worry: The painful tag from previous seasons as being labelled as tail-enders or wooden spooners is sure to have a slight effect on the club.

Its going to be a mighty task to see them flee from this but Adshead has the full belief from his squad that they can change things around, not only for the club, but for New Zealand football.

ABSW Prediction: With bad pre-season preparation you really can't see the Knights pushing for a top four spot this season.

Its going to take time for the squad to gel but until then, an eighth place finishing looms for the Knights.

New Zealand Knights' strong defender James Tambouras

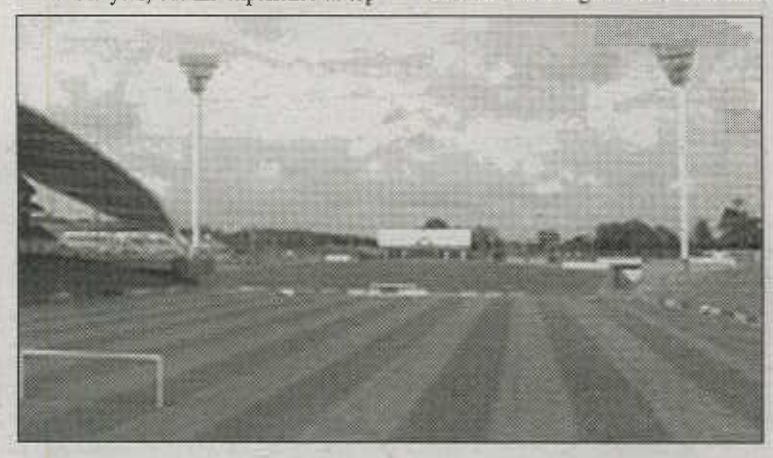
New Zealand Knights Squad:

1 - Danny Milosevic
2 - Darren Bazeley
3 - Ronnie Bull
4 - John Tambouras
5 - Danny Hay - **CAPTAIN**
6 - Neil Emblen
7 - Steve Fitzsimmons
8 - Ben Collett
9 - Simon Yeo
10 - Sean Devine
11 - Zenon Caravella
12 - Cole Tinkler**
13 - Jeremy Brockie**
14 - Josh Maguire
15 - Joshua Rose
16 - Noah Hickey
17 - Frank van Eijs
18 - Xiaobin Zhang**
19 - Naoki Imaya
20 - Glen Moss

** *Under 20 player*

SHORT TERM CONTRACT
Jeremy Christie for Naoki Imaya

Head Coach: John Adshead
Assistant Coach: Tommy Mason
***All players listed have their official squad numbers beside them**



North Harbour Stadium – the home of the New Zealand Knights

Neil Emblen will need to use his English experience in dictating the Knights midfield alongside Chinese International Xiaobin Zhang

A-LEAGUE

PERTH GLORY

GLORY

Former champions set to claim Glory in new era?

The never say die attitude of Jaime Harnwell could get the Glory places this season

By Mark Stavroulakis

Known to many as the last ever National League champions, Perth Glory has gone through a major rebuilding process in trying to continue its winning ways as Australia's most established side.

Its quite easy to state that the Glory have been at the forefront as this country's best footballing side via its team and also its well travelled and devoted fans.

2005 is a completely different year, their seven rival clubs have but assembled squads and tactics that is sure to rival that of the former NSL champs.

Through their transitional change came new manager and former Liverpool great Steve McMahon.

The hard dictatorship of McMahon has been felt by the squad since his appointment at the club after players argued that his coaching was far too hard and strenuous.

Nevertheless, McMahon has rallied his squad together, most of which were not selected by him, in a bid to recapture the glory times in Perth.

One move that has paid dividends so far for the club has been that of the return of keeper Jason Petkovic.

Milan Jovanic, the clubs so called first choice keeper was simply not good enough to start as the team's number one.

Brought by former Socceroo coach Frank Arok, Jovanic still needs a bit more time in developing into Glory's first choice keeper.

The team itself will rely heavily on their big defenders.

Towering centre backs David Tarka, skipper Jaime Harnwell and Ante Kovacevic will certainly have the tag of being the tallest timber-line of the competition.

The trio have formed a good partnership, and with the return of injured Tarka to the squad very soon, Perth's defence is in very safe hands.

One exciting player to watch out for is that of right back Jaime Coyne.

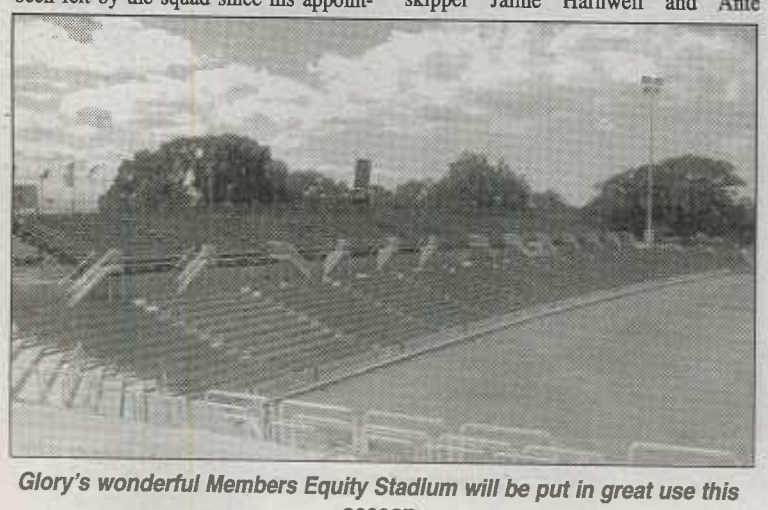
The versatile player is now comfortable in his position in defence and was a valuable squad member in Glory's two NSL Championship seasons.

One of the clubs major signings this year was that of former Parramatta Power midfielder Simon Colosimo.

Currently out of the Socceroos frame, Colosimo is pushing for a sterling season with the Glory in getting his name back on track with the Roo side.

Another player that could make a positive impact into McMahon's squad is Young Socceroo star Nick Ward.

The 19-yeat-old grabbed headlines after scoring the only goal that defeated Sydney FC for the first time during the pre-season cup final.



Glory's wonderful Members Equity Stadium will be put in great use this season

Watch for high flying Japanese import Hiroyuki Ishida to shine this year

He will be one to watch out for as is that of the talents of Japanese flying import Hiroyuki Ishida on the right wing.

Like Sydney FC have the marquee talents of one Dwight Yorke, Perth have its own new hero.

Former Sunderland and Leeds United striker Brian Deane will be one of the main attractions in Glory's squad this year.

One of English football's most successful strikers in recent years, Brian will bring a wealth of experience to the Glory. The big, powerful 6-foot-3 centre forward has played most of his career in the top flight of English football and will play a major role in the success of the club come finals time.

Accompanying the Englishman will be one of our very own prestigious marksman in Bobby Despotovski. You know when the game needs a goal many people turn to Bobby for the fireworks to happen and even at the age of 34, Despotovski still has that golden touch.

Another interesting aspect of the Perth side is its versatility in attack. Helping Bobby and Brian will be veteran striker Stuart Young and exciting Solomon Islands prospect Henry Fa'Arodo who is really a complete entertainment machine.

McMahon has the squad to take it to the top of the competition but will need time to assemble his English tactics on the squad.

Home Ground: Perth Glory's offices are based at Members Equity Stadium in East Perth, where the club's home games are stage.

The 18,000 capacity stadium is one of the best football stadiums in Australia and is set to undergo a second stage of development in order to accommodate 25,000 spectators.

Biggest Threat: You can't really go past the goal scoring expertise of one Brian Deane.

Although unknown in this country, Deane managed to score an amazing 223 goals in 652 starting English appearances – a statistic that is sure to further this year.

Biggest Worry: The unsettled nature of the squad was a worry for the club. Many of the players grew unsettled with coach Steve McMahon and his tactics.

With all their troubles supposedly swept aside, the fact that the team was under a bit of pressure could lead to another break-up if the squad is under achieving.

ABSW Prediction: Perth has a quality side and should be there come semi-final time. Look to see the Glory go from strength to strength as the games progress in the competition. Fourth placed finishing looks rather likely.

Perth Glory FC Squad:

1 - Jason Petkovic
2 - Matt Horsley
3 - David Tarka
4 - Simon Colosimo
5 - Jamie Harnwell - **CAPTAIN**
6 - Steve McMahon Jnr
7 - Scott Miller
8 - Nick Ward**
9 - Brian Deane
10 - Bobby Despotovski
11 - Daniel Vasilevski
12 - Hiroyuki Ishida
13 - Ante Kovacevic
14 - Jamie Coyne
15 - Billy Celeski**
17 - Stuart Young
18 - Henry Fa'Arodo
19 - Naum Sekulovski
20 - Milan Jovanic**
21 - Adrian Caceres

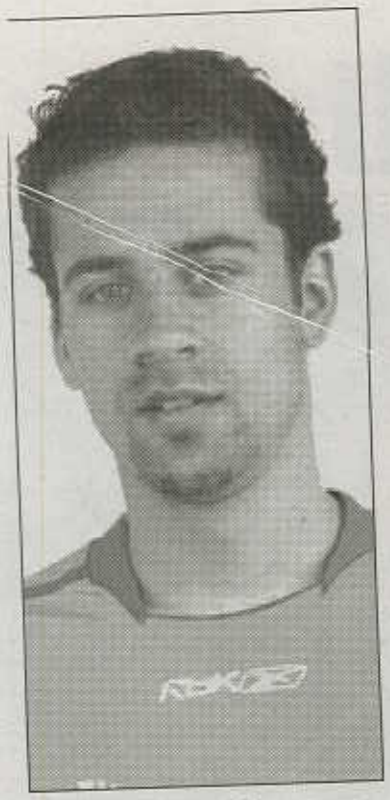
** *Under 20 player*
Head Coach: Steve McMahon
Assistant Coach: Alan Vest

***All players listed have their official squad numbers beside them**

Watch for the goals to hit the roof for the Glory via English machine Brian Deane

QUEENSLAND ROAR

Beach boys serious about A-League



Beware of Roar's danger man up-front, Alex Brosque

By Peter Damalas & Mark Stavroulakis

The comically named Queensland Road have serious intentions for the inaugural A-League campaign.

One of the more financially secure ventures in the eight team competition, Queensland also boast perhaps the most vibrant and attractive kit. Outfitted in orange and blue, the team will hope to engender in its supporters a deep sense of pride and passion.

Coach Miron Bleiberg is an advocate for open, attacking football, and he has at his disposal an exciting group of players that can dazzle all opponents when on top of their game.

The team's attacking play will be based around the most recent acquisition, Alex Brosque, whose skill on the ball is exceptional.

Once hailed as the next big star in the Australian game, Brosque spent a hard long season battling it out on the bench with Belgium side Westerloo.

Fed up with not getting game time, Brosque ended his career in Belgium and was given the chance to get his name out once more in our very own A-League with the Roar.

Leading the line is former Sydney Olympic player Michael Baird with Royce Brownlie a capable alternative.

Baird has proved quite a character in our game so far, not only for his football, but his antics as being targeted as a player defenders shouldn't mess with.

Wide midfielders Massimo Murdocca and Jonathan Richter will also be great to watch given their speed and dynamism down the flanks, while Matt McKay and will provide the backbone in the middle of the field.

Club captain Chad Gibson also has high expectations in leading his squad out this year.

A long serving former Marconi stalwart, his defensive abilities will be put to the test amongst a very inexperienced back-line aside from Swiss international Remo Buess.

Right full-back Spase Dilevski is one name that we could be hearing more often in the future.

A Young Socceroo international, Dilevski's signing at the club was one that Queensland will certainly benefit from.

A new-age defender, Spase has the ability not only to defend, but attack as well making him one of the best developing players in Australia.

The Roar have two South Korean imports in central midfielder Hyuk-Su Seo and attacking midfielder Tae-Yong Shin.

Both need to adapt to the physical nature of the Australian game if they have any plans on establishing themselves in this country.

Technically blessed, people know that if your willing to put your foot in here in Australia then you might as well hang the boots up.

A lack of depth may cause significant problems for Bleiberg, particularly should one of the aforementioned squad members suffer an injury or incur a suspension.

The defence is yet to convince, although the team did quite well to dominate Sydney FC in the Pre-Season Cup group phase.

Home Ground: Suncorp Stadium is a 52,500 seat, world class state-of-the-art sports venue with a capacity for a range of uses including local and international rugby league, rugby union and soccer. The cauldron like design and the proximity to the playing field ensures patrons the best view and atmosphere not ever experienced at a sporting event in Queensland before.

Biggest Threat: Former Marconi Stallion striker Alex Brosque will need to add some 'roar' to his 'gallop'- read this in terms of adding goals to his repertoire of tricks on the ball.

Expect him to form one of the most devastating attacking partnerships in the league, alongside Baird.

Back from his not so good European experience in Belgium, Brosque has a point to prove that he is still regarded as one of this country's most exciting up and coming talents.

Biggest Worry: The squad is short of quality at the back, although Swiss sweeper Remo Buess may soon establish himself. Both Karl Dodd and Josh McCloughlan need a few more games under their belt at this level to compete with the best.

They may have the tendency to concede soft goals.

ABSW Prediction: Will be competitive in most matches, but will find the going tough against the more battle hardened, result-oriented teams — as the Roar will attempt to play an expansive, attractive brand of football.

Will finish above the New Zealand Knights near the foot of the ladder.

The Queensland Roar beach boys: (L-R) Remo Buess – Chad Gibson – Michael Baird and Ben Griffin

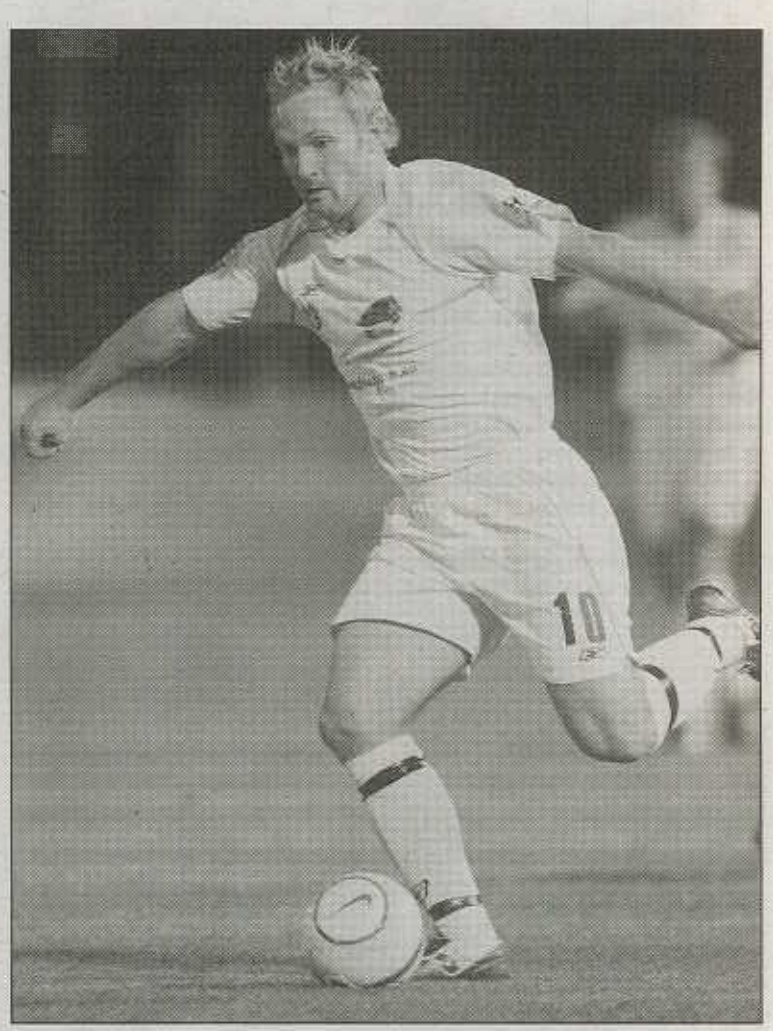
Queensland's spectacular home – Suncorp Stadium, shown in all its glory

Queensland Roar Squad:

1 - Tom Willis
2 - Karl Dodd
3 - Remo Buess
4 - Chad Gibson - **CAPTAIN**
5 - Josh McCloughlan
6 - Todd Gava
7 - Tae-Yong Shin
8 - Massimo Murdocca
9 - Michael Baird
10 - Royce Brownlie
11 - Jonathan Richter
12 - Jordan Simpson**
13 - Tyler Simpson **
14 - Ben Griffin**
15 - Matt McKay
16 - Hyuk-Su Seo
17 - Reece Tollenaere
18 - Warren Moon
19 - Alex Brosque
20 - Scott Higgins

Short Term Contracts:
21 - Spase Dilevski (for Jordan Simpson)
22 – Neil Jones
23 – Dario Vidosic (for Matthew McKay)
** *Under 20s players.*

Head Coach: Miron Bleiberg.
Assistant Coach: Rado Vidosic



Can 'Royles' Royce Brownlie recapture his form as a proven scorer with Queensland this season?

A-LEAGUE

SYDNEY F.C.

SYDNEY FC

'Bling' F.C. set benchmark

The sweet left foot of midfielder David Carney will be one to watch out for in the Sydney FC squad

By Peter Damalas

Sydney FC, frequently dubbed the 'glamour' club of the A-League, have assembled a squad full of experience and a high level of technical ability.

Despite concerns about the perceived lack of direction during the recruitment phase- assistant coach Ian Crook called the shots before Andy Harper and head coach Pierre Littbarski came on board- the twenty man squad looks well equipped to deal with the challenges associated with being the team all the others want to knock off.

Indeed, Sydney already have an air of confidence about them, especially considering their eighteen match unbeaten run which involved qualification for the FIFA Club World Championship to take place in Japan at the end of the year.

The club's first loss to final National Soccer League champions Perth Glory in the Pre-Season Cup semi-final at home last weekend- may in fact be a blessing in disguise. It will remind everyone at the club that the team is not impregnable and that there are seven other teams with a chance this first season.

Coach Littbarski will also have more time to work on the players' fitness levels through training rather than competing.

The classy former West German international- who has experienced the ultimate highs on the world stage as a player- has worked extensively in the J-League and will use his experience in another developing country (football wise) to push the envelope on Australian shores, particularly when it comes to fitness, tactical nous and technical skills.

His team already bears the hallmarks of a well-drilled unit of players, each of whom know their respective roles on the pitch.

Starting in goals- and Clint Bolton, arguably the most capable Australian based goalkeeper, is backed up by Young Socceroo Justin Pasfield.

In defence, youngsters Jacob Timpano and Iain Fyfe have impressed throughout the course of the pre-season with their speed, positioning and comfort on the ball.

Timpano has come through with flying colours after his Young Socceroos experience in Holland.

A find for the future, Timpano has already been chased by various European clubs but has stated his intent in making a name for himself here first.

Fyfe has also been seen as a player to look for this season.

He took out the player of the tournament award during the Oceania championships which has set him a benchmark to work off.

Ufuk Talay's technical brilliance will be one of Sydney FC's danger points this season

Expect club captain Mark Rudan to have a contest on his hands to secure a regular starting berth once he returns to full fitness. His composure and experience however, will be a great asset come semi-final time.

The first choice full-backs offer quality to the team's play down the flanks.

Currently injured, right-back Mark Milligan is shaping up as an excellent prospect indeed with his speed and dogged determination, while left-back Alvin Ceccoli (who has spent the past few years playing as sweeper) has re-discovered his ability to stride down the touchline and deliver precise crosses when supporting the attack.

There is plenty of experience in the centre of midfield.

Northern Ireland player Terry McFlynn is another find for the club, combining intelligent distribution with the kind of graft that every coach wants from a midfield workhorse.

His experience in the lower leagues in England will certainly come in handy this year with his tough tackling and running style set to be put in good use.

Returning from extended European sojourns, Ufuk Talay and Steve Corica help to pull the strings from deep and in more advanced positions.

Talay, who features as one of the main stars in the A-League commercial this year, will be one to watch for entertainment value - expect the tricks to come out of the bag for Ufuk!

Exciting wing-play is a feature of the Sydney FC style.

David Carney provides what has been lacking in domestic football for quite some time- a skilful left-winger capable of taking on and turning opposing full-backs inside out, a la Ryan Giggs and Arjen Robben.

And then we have the strike force.

Former treble-winner with Manchester United Dwight Yorke has been the talk of the A-League thus far, with his every move both on-and-off the field scrutinised by an eager media.

When he is playing, the team will no doubt be a more entertaining package, as efficiency seems to be the order of the day under the affable German coach.

But the top goalscorer award may fall to Sasho Petrovski, whose scintillating form in the build up earned him a spot in Socceroos coach Guus Hiddink's recent training squad.

Petrovski is one of the characters of the game and has set himself high goals in becoming this year's top marksman.

Sasho always comes in with the goods so if he has issued this, expect it to possibly happen.

Club co-captain David Zdrilic will also figure prominently.

Home Ground: Aussie Stadium is regarded as one of the best football stadiums in Australia. Located near the centre of Sydney, Aussie Stadium has hosted Football World Cup Qualifiers, NRL Grand Finals and Bledisloe Cup clashes.

Biggest Threat: You can't go past marquee signing Dwight Yorke.Expect fireworks should the Trinidad & Tobago international get his wish and play alongside Petrovski and Zdrilic up front, with Carney in support.

He will undoubtedly get more time on the ball here than previously in England. Yorke is set to carve up the opposition, providing he is not unduly targeted by ample defenders.

Biggest Worry: The four man midfield may find itself overrun by teams that play three robust midfielders centrally. Sydney FC will look to control possession in each of its matches, but with wingers Carney and Robbie Middleby more attack minded, space may appear in behind the midfield quartet, exposing an often brittle back line.

Injuries and suspensions may cause numerous problems for all eight clubs with the twenty man roster.

ABSW Prediction: At this stage look as though they are the team that will lift the trophy at the end of the year.

The team looks solid across the field and will use its wealth of class and experience to deal with tricky opponents and trying circumstances. Favourites to claim the first A-League crown and passage into Asia, although the trip to Japan for the CWC may coincide with a loss of concentration, for a few rounds at least.

Aussie Stadium will play host to all of Sydney FC's home matches

Sydney F.C. Squad:

1 - Clint Bolton
2 - Iain Fyfe
3 - Alvin Ceccoli
4 - Mark Rudan - **CAPTAIN**
5 - Steve Laurie
6 - Ufuk Talay
7 - Robbie Middleby
8 - Matthew Bingley
9 - David Zdrilic
10 - Steve Corica
11 - Saso Petrovski
12 - David Carney
13 - Alejandro Salazar
14 - Andrew Packer
15 - Terry McFlynn
16 - Mark Milligan**
17 - Jacob Timpano**
18 - Wade Oostendorp**
19 - Dwight Yorke
20 - Justin Pasfield**

***Under 20 player*
Head Coach: Pierre Littbarski
Assistant Coach: Ian Crook
***All players listed have their official squad numbers beside them**

Marquee signing Dwight Yorke is by far the best ever signing an Australian club has ever done – watch him set the A-League on fire

A-League Special Feature

Who will be the DEADLY partnership duo?

By Mark Stavroulakis

Just which side will have the best known strikers in the A-League competition?

Competition is fierce as all 8-sides go head to head in battling it out for the ultimate prize, the A-League championship.

Another prize that all strikers in the competition will most certainly be gunning for is the tag of being the league's top marksman.

Below is a list of possible dynamic duo's that could strike great partnerships which could have a possible bearing on their final placing at the end of the season.

You be the judge and see just who will reign supreme out of the list of names shown below.

Remember to assume nothing an expect anything from these well-known attackers.

Carl Veart & Shenquing Qu (Adelaide Utd)

The Orient express meets one of Australia's most experienced marksman.

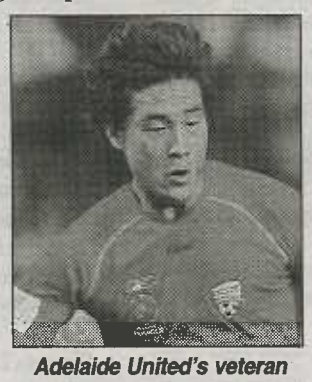
Adelaide's Chinese international **Shenquing Qu** and former Socceroo striker **Carl Veart** will be the two menacing forwards that will hope to bring a flurry of goals home with them in South Australia.

Qu is classed as a clever and very skilful attacker with brilliant touches that should work hand in hand with the hard working and bustling Veart.

During his English football days with Sheffield United, Veart was known as the 'train', with his energetic runs and thunderous finishes.

Goals have dried up at Hindmarsh Stadium, so look to see these two figures out as an outside contender for the deadly duo of the year.

Chance of winning: Low



Adelaide United's veteran marksman Carl Veart wants to be amongst the goals this year

Nick Mrdja & Stewart Petrie (CentralCoast Mariners)

Nick 'never to shy to score a hat-trick' **Mrdja** has been in red hot form for the red hot Mariners this season.

It's been a dream come true for the Central Coast side since his move from the West as Mrdja has settled down quicker than expected.

His consistency in front of goal has earmarked him as a possible candidate for top marksman of the year.

Partnering Nick is Scottish hardliner **Stewart Petrie**.

Petrie brings with him a wealth of experience from his time in Scotland with clubs such as Dunfermline and Forfar Athletic.

You know your in for a hard time when you've spent most of your life playing against some of the hardest defenders in the Scottish Premier League.

The pair have yet to strike a positive partnership due to Petrie's injury worries, but rest assured, both will be up there with the A-Leagues best.

Chance of winning: Medium

The winning attitude of Stewart Petrie could pave way for a fruitful striking partnership alongside Nick Mrdja

Dwight York & Sasho Petrovski (Sydney FC)

The superstar pairing of both **Dwight Yorke** and **Sasho Petrovski** have caught the attention of many as being the dynamic duo set to take out all the plaudits this year.

Both have formed a deadly partnership already and will be seen in the top goal scorers charts this year for sure.

Still getting used to the Australian game, Yorke is hoping to bring together his form he shared once at Manchester United where scoring goals was a mere breeze.

His skill level and eye for goal are his main points and will be even deadlier once his fitness improves – so expect Yorkie to smash in a few goals in for the Sky Blues. On the other end of the stick, Petrovski, a man that has pledged huge goals this year has also been one hot player so far.

His form in front of goals has seen him grab the attention of Socceroo coach Guus Hiddink which really says something about him.Cleary, this duo are the team to beat in 2005.

Chance of winning: Favourites

"I want to be this year's top goalscorer" – Sydney FC's confident striker Sasho Petrovski

Michael Baird & Alex Brosque (Queensland Roar)

The beach boys up at Queensland have their own secret weapons in the fiery **Michael Baird** and gifted attacker **Alex Brosque.**

Baird has already shown the rest of the A-League through the pre-season that he will not be pushed over by any defender, his temperament will be put to the test, but his goal scoring abilities need to shine through.

Brosque on the other hand brings elegance to the Roar attack.

His deft touches and the ability to beat a man with his sheer speed will be one of the former Stallions main tricks.

The young duo will surely be a dynamic partnership for the future but could well kick off proceedings earlier than expected this year.

Chance of winning: High

Roar's Michael Baird will be a right handful for many defenders this year – watch for the swinging elbows lads!

Ante Milicic & Guy Bates (Newcastle Utd Jets)

Provided **Ante Milicic** stays injury free, his desire to capture this year's golden boot award alone is enough to make him one of the favourites amongst this talented pack.

Milicic has been hit by pre-season injuries but has vowed that he will be back better than ever when the first ball is kicked against Adelaide United this Friday.

He's set his target quite high this year so look to see him fire on all cylinders.

Joining him could be Englishman **Guy Bates**.

You'd like to think that the 19-year-old got expert tips from the likes of Alan Shearer, Craig Bellamy and Patrick Kluivert during his days at Newcastle United.

Known for having one of the most frightening shots in the side, Bates and Milicic could be the dark horse in this category.

Chance of winning: Medium

Guy Bates will bring together his English experience at the Jets alongside one of Australia's best strikers in Ante Milicic

Archie Thompson & Daniel Allsopp (Melb Victory)

One of the clear favourites to land the title, Melbourne's returning stars **Archie Thompson** and **Daniel Allsopp** will be one pair to watch out for during the season.

Thompson has already put himself as one of the key strikers in this competition.

His never-say-die attitude and willingness to try and try again has seen his signing at the Victory as probably the best.

Archie has had a great pre-season run but will need his fellow partner in crime, former Hull front-man Allsopp to also hit the net.

The burly blonde bomber has yet to score but has created a number of chances for Archie in his goalscoring quest.

The pair seemed to have worked each other out and could be the winners of the dynamic duo partnership, Thompson being the scorer, Allsopp being the provider.

Chance of winning: High

Swashbuckling striker Daniel Allsopp has turned from scorer to provider so far and will work well with fellow attacker Archie Thompson

Brian Deane & Bobby Despotovski (Perth Glory)

Hold the phone, a partnership of one of Australia's best strikers in **Bobby Despotovski** and former England star **Brian Deane** heralds a definite mention as a leading contender for this award.

Despotovski is no stranger to the Australian game in the goalscoring department.

He alone has scored well-over 100 goals in his Australian career, and will enter more into his account this year.

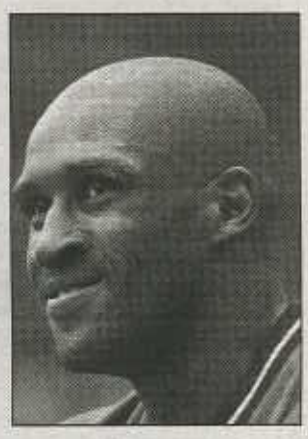
As for the massive six-foot-three presence of Deane, he has been classed as a real goal scoring machine by his fellow peers in both the U.K. and Portugal.

The 223 goals in his English career is enough to make any betting man take a punt in him winning this year's golden boot award.

Yet to make an appearance for the Glory, Deane will want to be dropping some bombs this Friday in keeping his record and reputation in tact as being the goal scoring monster he is.

Both should form one of the deadliest partnerships since Bobby and Damian Mori at the Glory.

Chance of winning: Very High



Remember this name and number – Number 9 Brian Deane, enough said

Simon Yeo & Sean Devine (New Zealand Knights)

English strikers **Simon Yeo** and **Sean Devine** will be flying the flag for the New Zealand Knights in this division.

Both have spent a considerable amount of time playing in the lower divisions in England but have gained a rather reputable name for hitting the back of the net.

Coach John Adshead has issued a warning to all rival A-League sides that although an unknown to many in Australia, both Yeo and Devine will be names many will be hearing over the announcer's box during the season.

That in mind, we at *ABSW* will keep Adshead's comments close and see how their chances fair during the outcome of the year.

Chance of winning: Low

Simon Yeo will want to do the business for the Knights in racking up as many goals in helping the club's fight for a consistent season

Round One: A-League Previews

Newcastle Jets vs Adelaide Utd

Friday 26th August
Newcastle United Jets vs Adelaide United at Energy Australia Stadium

The Game: Newcastle will be desperate to succeed in front of a hopefully packed Energy Australia Stadium for the inaugural A-League fixture. Adelaide however, are capable of a surprise, and should prove stiff opposition.

The Outcome: Home ground advantage should sway the match Newcastle's way, perhaps late in the match when the Adelaide players may succumb to fatigue and the lack of fire-power that has been seen in recent weeks by the South Australians.

Player to watch: Franco Parisi. With Ante Milicic under an injury cloud, the former Olympic striker may come to the fore with his speed.

Ante though is said to be in the squad.

Likely line-ups: Newcastle Jets: Reddy, Eagleton, North, Deans, Zelic, Johnson, Thompson, Carle, Picken, Milicic, Parisi

Adelaide Utd: Beltrame, Alagich, Rees, Costanzo, Valkanis, Aloisi, Pantelis, Veart, Dodd, Van Dommele, Qu.

Tip the score: 2-1 Newcastle United Jets.

By Peter Damalas

Perth Glory vs Central Coast Mariners

Friday 26th August
Perth Glory vs Central Coast Mariners at Members Equity Stadium

The Game: Perth Glory will be looking for revenge after the Central Coast Mariners claimed the Pre-Season Cup. A likely sell-out at Members Equity Stadium will prove to be a useful test to the away side's credentials.

The Outcome: The long trip west may hamper the Central Coast in their attempts to notch up a second successive win over the Perth side.

The likes of Bobby Despotovski and Nick Ward will look to find the back of the net after missing a host of chances last weekend.

Player to watch: Brian Deane. The former English Premier League striker will be the centre of attention for home supporters, many of them of English background.

Likely line-ups: Perth Glory: Petkovic, Horsley, Colosimo, McMahon Jnr, Miller, Despotovski, Kovacevic, Coyne, Celeski, Deane, Ishida.

Central Coast Mariners: Crawley, O'Sullivan, Beauchamp, Gumprecht, Heffernan, Petrie, Pondeljak, Brown, Spencer, Clark, Wilkinson.

Tip the score: 1-0 Perth Glory.

By Peter Damalas

Sydney F.C. vs Melbourne Victory

Sunday 28th August
Sydney FC vs Melbourne Victory at Aussie Stadium

The Game: The pick of the round, Sydney FC will hope to keep their glamour status in tact with the visit of probably their strongest opponents the Victory.

Already, a decent crowd should be on hand to witness this highly anticipated match.

The Outcome: Sydney will welcome back Saso Petrovski, Dwight Yorke, David Zdrilic and Mark Rudan to their starting line-up.

In that, the win should come, but the game will be close and Melbourne's weapon in Archie Thompson will be one man that the Sydney defence will need to keep their eye on.

Player to watch: Look to see Dwight Yorke in his first official match hopefully shine, but it will be the man he will be marked by in Kevin Muscat that is sure to bring the spectacle into an ever greater battle.

Likely line-ups: Sydney FC: Bolton, Fyfe, Ceccoli, Middleby, Corica, Petrovski, Carney, Packer, Yorke, Rudan, McFlynn.

Melbourne Victory: Theoklitos, Muscat, Piorkowski, Clayes, Kitzbichler, Sarkies, Vlahos, Ferrante, Lia, Allsopp, Thompson.

Tip the score: 2-1 Sydney FC

By Mark Stavroulakis

Queensland Roar vs NZ Knights

Sunday 28th August
QLD Roar vs NZ Knights at Suncorp Stadium

The Game: The Kiwis travel to Queensland hoping to end memories of their 5-0 drubbing in Auckland during the Pre-season cup.

The Roar will be out to cement their first win of the season while the Knights are hoping to at least gain a point from the match.

The Outcome: Queensland have the strike power to frustrate the Knights defence and will prove far too strong for a side that has had a poor pre-season start.

Player to watch: Roar's exciting striker Alex Brosque will be a player that is set for great things in the Sunshine Coast.

He along with midfielder Jonti Richter will be surprise packets for the Kiwis.

Likely line-ups: Queensland Roar: Willis, Dodd, Buess, Gibson, Murdocca, Richter, Hyuk-Su Reo, Brownlie, Brosque, Tollenaere, Dilevski.

New Zealand Knights: Milosevic, Bull, Tambouras, Emblen, Fitzsimmons, Devine, Maguire, Rose, Zhang, Yeo, Bazeley.

Tip the score: 3-0 Queensland Roar

A-LEAGUE'S OFFICIALS SET FOR TOUGH YEAR

Its not only the clubs and players that will make this year's A-League the competition it hopes to be, but the officials themselves will also play a huge role in the outcome of all matches.

The FFA has done its duty in hand picking some of the best whistleblowers and officials in the game for the debut season of the A-League.

Its safe to say that the Hyundai A-League has opened up a new arena for aspiring Referees.

The high quality of football now means using the best available match officials throughout Australia and New Zealand to control the games.

As such a panel of 12 Referees and 22 Assistant Referees has been contracted by the Hyundai A-League.

The top five Referees will control the majority of the matches throughout the season, while the remaining seven Referees will control the remaining matches.

Love them or hate them, it's the referees that control the outlook of the game and the top five that have been chosen have officiated all over the world including World Cups.

The Referees panel consists of:

A-Panel (top five): Mark Shield (FIFA), Matthew Breeze (FIFA), Ben Williams (FIFA), Peter O'Leary (FIFA) and Simon Przydacz B-Panel (next seven): Neil Fox (FIFA), Srebre Delovski, James Lewis, Perry Mur, Craig Zetter, Angelo Nardi, and Peter Green.

The Assistant Referees are: Nathan Gibson (FIFA), Hakan Anaz (FIFA), Brent Best (FIFA), Matthew Cream (FIFA), Paul Dunham (FIFA), Paul Eldridge (FIFA), Darrin Mitchell (FIFA), Jim Ouliaris (FIFA), John Peacock (FIFA), Jason Power (FIFA), Jonathan Streater (FIFA), Peter Vrtkovski (FIFA), Ben Wilson (FIFA), Rodney Allen, Luke Brennan, Paul Cetrangolo, Joe Fusari, Alex Glasgow, Sam Hasic, Michael Nugus, Gavin Martin and Stephen Muldoon.

'Watch your tongue there son' - Referee Mark Shield shown laying down the law on Mariners midfielder John Hutchinson (left)

Matthew Breeze delivering German ace Torsten Frings a message during the 2005 Confederations Cup

ABSW TIPSTERS FOR THE SEASON

Something new that will appear in *ABSW* this week and for the next 21 weeks is a tipping competition which will see just who has the midas touch in picking a winner.

Western Australia's Richard Kreider, Italian correspondent Joe Russo, Queensland writer Glenn Davis, chief writer Peter Damalas, Melbourne Socialite Daniela Raco, and the editor himself Mark Stavroulakis will be competing against each other – Let the tips begin!

Richard Kreider
(Scotsman to the bone)
-Perth Glory
-Draw
-Queensland Roar
-Sydney FC

Joe Russo
(Forza Italia)
-Perth Glory
-Draw
-Queensland Roar
-Sydney FC

Peter Damalas
(The Tactician)
-Perth Glory
-Newcastle United Jets
-Queensland Roar
-Draw

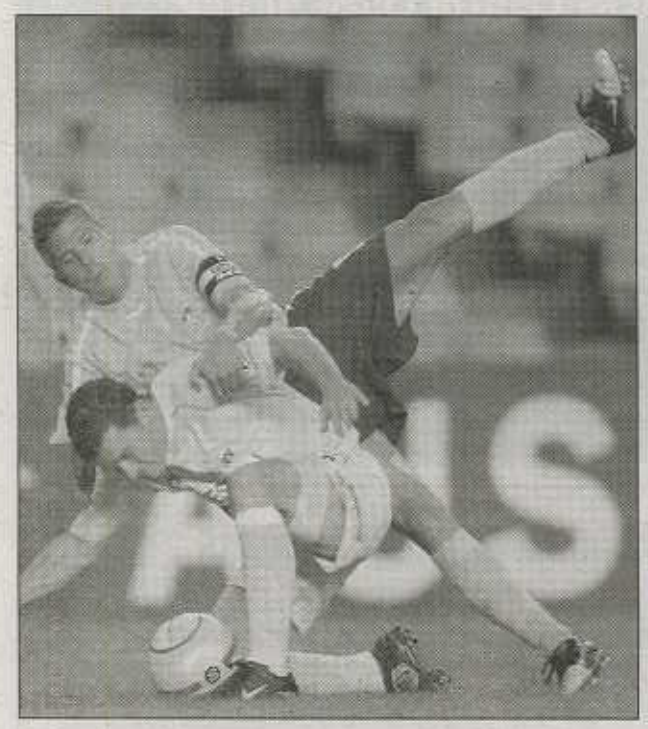
Glenn Davis
(ABSW's Mystery Man)
-Perth Glory
-Adelaide United
-Queensland Roar
-Sydney FC

Daniela Raco
(Melbourne's socialite)
-Perth Glory
-Newcastle Jets
-Queensland Roar
-Sydney FC

Mark Stavroulakis
(Mr ED)
-Draw
-Draw
-Queensland Roar
-Sydney FC

'Malcolm' The Monkey
(Show me the bananas)
-Central Coast Mariners
-Adelaide United
-Queensland Roar

A WHOLE NEW BALL GAME



Crunching A-League action shown between Glory's Scott Miller and Sydney's Steve Corica (right)

By Marc Fox

A-League broadcaster Fox Sports has unveiled its programming for the inaugural season with fans set to lap up a mouth-watering six-hour football feast on each of the first two Sunday afternoons of action.

Fox had already announced it would be showing all four matches from rounds one and two live but has now confirmed the full extent of its wide-ranging coverage.

In the early rounds, Sunday's football marathon catches the eye. Starting at 1pm, Fox will televise a full replay of an a Premier League match from the previous night, before launching into a half-hour build-up of the afternoon's A-League double-header followed by live coverage of the games themselves. Importantly, the match from England will not be one of those shown live the night before, giving fans the chance to see even more Premier League action than last season.

In addition to Sunday's schedule, Friday night football will also form part of Fox's minimum commitment to the league with regular hosts Neil Evans and Robbie Slater fronting and commentating on the A-League's evening kick-off.

When Fox decides to televise the second Friday night fixture – as in the first two weeks – the programme will continue with the support of site-based supplementary match callers such as Mike McCann. For Sunday afternoon feature matches, Fox has enlisted former Channel 7 commentator Michael Cockerill and Socceroos assistant coach Graham Arnold to call the action.

Furthermore, from August 30, a weekly half-hour highlights package will begin dedicated to rounding up the previous round's A-League news. The programme will be aired every Tuesday at 7.30pm and will be followed every Thursday by a one-hour preview show, Total Football, which will invite players into the studio to discuss their forthcoming fixtures.

The exposure Fox can create for football with its dedicated sports channels is a far cry from anything seen on Australian television before despite the best efforts of SBS in recent seasons.

The broadcaster's enthusiastic, whole-hearted support for the relaunched code is reminiscent of the splash Sky Sports made in the opening years of the Premier League in the UK.

Before football coverage was taken over by the specialist broadcaster, free-to-air networks like the BBC and ITV shared live matches but neither could alleviate the declining fortunes of England's top-flight.

Under the tagline 'It's a whole new ball game', Sky introduced more live televised matches and innovative match analyses aimed at developing a marketable package from what used to be just a game of football.

Some have even gone as far as to suggest Sky's coverage helped regenerate the game in England. What is certain is the tandem introduction of the Premier League and Sky Sports coverage in 1992 launched English football to unprecedented heights for spectators.

For not only was Sky's telecast more compelling, but the resulting influx of money contributed to Premier League clubs being able to attract overseas talent like never before. Whether this scenario has benefited the English national team is another argument, but few doubt that as a spectacle the current offering has been bettered at any point in the game's history.

Officials at Fox Sports hope to make a similar impact with its A-League coverage starting this Friday at Newcastle and in each of the 16 matches televised between now and the end of September.

John Romeo's Soccer Mission in East Timor

By Joe Russo and Terry Timbs

When John Romeo, the Australia's National Schoolboys coach, recently arrived in Dili, East Timor he couldn't stop saying that the place had a "Jamaican beat" and a "Rio feel" about it.

He said repeatedly that he was really glad to be in Timor Leste and was looking forward to sharing something special with the people there.

"It really is an amazing place," he said. "It has a real atmosphere about it and is so different to Australia."

Romeo's visit came after almost two years of preparation. As the Creative Arts Coordinator at St Andrew's College in Marayong, Sydney and Australia's National Schoolboys coach, he had been challenged to bring his footballing skills to East Timor by a colleague at St Andrew's, Terry Timbs.

"It was an opportunity that was too good to refuse," he said.

The Catholic Education Office in Parramatta and the remarkable generosity of the staff and students of St Andrew's supported Romeo's visit to East Timor.

"I am grateful to have such a generous employer because it enables me to combine my fulltime employment with football," Romeo stated.

The College Executive of St Andrew's, led by Dr DeCourcy, gave a donation of $5,000 which was spent assisting the East Timorese people.

And part of this money was used to stage Romeo's coaching program.

His first destination was Same, high in the mountains of East Timor, about 120 kms from Dili and a lot of groundwork had gone into preparing the visit. One of the Timorese teachers said: "this is a dream come true for us. We have so many young people who live for soccer, but we have not had the know-how to teach them."

In Same, where he was an immediate hit with the locals, Romeo went straight into a meeting with a local teacher who was organising the competition and training sessions for the next three days. And over the next three days crowds lined the rough oval where the competition took place.

"I couldn't believe how many young people love their soccer in East Timor," he said. "They have a real passion for the sport and with proper coaching could really develop."

On the first day a ceremony, involving a large group of boys and girls in traditional Timorese costume, playing babadoks (drums), singing and dancing, welcomed Romeo as a special guest.

Children gave speeches in English and Tetun, thanking him for coming to share his time and gifts with them, and presenting him with a sign of their gratitude and affection – a Timorese 'Tais' (scarf).

"They were magnificent children – I was truly humbled by the experience."

Australian National Schoolboys John Romeo giving East Timor kids some extra footballing tips

Romeo brought soccer balls and boots for the players, as well as the St Andrew's Cup to East Timor.

The competition was played at a furious pace with the locals urging the players on with Tetun phrases like 'loke loke" (open, open) and "haree haree" (look, look).

Players skilfully avoided injury on huge rocks in the playing area and Romeo commended them on the real talent they demonstrated.

"We sometimes take a lot of things for granted in Australia. We don't realise how lucky we are especially when you see the playing fields in East Timor," he said.

"The boy who received the 'best & fairest' award of 25 US dollars, later said that it would cover his education for two years. I was truly moved by the experience and I promised that I would return."

After the matches on the first two days an excited crowd stayed to watch an hour of coaching. Working with young men aged 17 to 25, Romeo produced bibs, cones and footballs and showed them how professional coaching works.

The intense workout challenged the young men but they came back for more. Rui, a Portuguese teacher and soccer coach, assisted with the sessions.

Rui later said that he had never seen coaching like this and one of the participants, who had played with the East Timor National Youth Team, said he learnt many things in two hours.

Many of the young men of the town came to these sessions. In a week Romeo had captivated this shy, poor, but resilient and courageous people of East Timor.

Ian Ferguson no fan of salary cap

Central Coast Mariners assistant coach Ian Ferguson admits he doesn't see a long-term future for the A-League's salary cap and 20-man roster limits.

The former Rangers and Dunfermline star told The Scotsman: "There is a totally different approach to marketing from the people who run the new league.

"We have new clubs, spanking big stadiums and sponsorship, which is in real contrast to the old league which was just a shambles. We haven't had professional football for a year and half in Australia, so the start of the new league can't come quick enough. Salary caps for every team and limits on the size of our squads have been introduced, and I have to say I'm not a fan of those two ideas.

"I think in the past UEFA would have looked upon Australian football as a bit of a joke. That will change I'm sure because the people running the new league are excellent in business. But if you are going to attract the best players, then $1.5m is not a lot to spread over 20 players.

"Between November and March there we had to get in 20 players within that budget, and it proved really difficult. Trying to get a team together that will deliver a good standard of play with that amount of money is a big ask. You really have to work some magic, and at the end of the day Dwight Yorke isn't here for the money. I think the lifestyle and the beaches might have proved an attractive environment to end his career.

"The salary cap ties your hands. I still believe that whatever a player can get out of his new club's board in terms of wages then good luck to him. If a club here has $4m or $5m in the bank then they should be able to go that little bit extra to attract better players.

Ian Ferguson: Central Coast Mariners Assistant coach has grown unhappy with the A-League's salary cap and player roster

"I don't think it could work in Scotland or England. For me, it would be a bad thing to bring into football and the clubs would just work off Celtic, for example. If Celtic say they have £10m for players then they would be setting the benchmark and therefore would know exactly what they are going to get. We don't have that luxury."

WORLD NEWS

FIFA WORLD RANKINGS

(August 2005)

1	Brazil	837
2	Argentina	782
3	Netherlands	780
4	Czech Republic	777
5	Mexico	770
6	USA	768
7	England	743
8	Spain	739
9	France	737
9	Portugal	737
11	Germany	722
12	Turkey	712
13	Italy	711
14	Republic of Ireland	709
15	Iran	708
15	Sweden	708
17	Japan	706
18	Greece	696
18	Denmark	696
20	Croatia	693
21	Costa Rica	692
22	Poland	688
23	Korea Republic	681
24	Colombia	678
25	Uruguay	675
26	Egypt	671
27	Saudi Arabia	665
28	Cameroon	663
29	Russia	655
30	Nigeria	650
31	Tunisia	649
31	Romania	649
33	Ecuador	648
34	Morocco	642
35	Paraguay	640
36	Norway	639
36	Ukraine	639
38	South Africa	632
39	Honduras	631
40	Senegal	628
41	Jamaica	626
42	Switzerland	622
43	Finland	617
44	Côte d'Ivoire	616
45	Slovakia	611
46	Bulgaria	606
47	Israel	596
48	Slovenia	595
49	Serbia and Montenegro	593
50	Bahrain	591
51	Zimbabwe	587
52	Belgium	585
53	Trinidad and Tobago	574
54	China PR	572
54	Kuwait	572
56	Zambia	569
57	Australia	568
57	Iraq	568
59	Guatemala	567
60	Mali	566
61	Belarus	565
62	Uzbekistan	561
63	Jordan	560
64	Latvia	559
65	Hungary	557
66	Togo	555
67	Venezuela	550
68	Oman	549
68	Qatar	549
70	Ghana	547
71	Austria	546
71	Angola	546
73	Chile	545
74	Cuba	544
75	Libya	543
75	Peru	543
77	Panama	540
78	Bosnia-Herzegovina	533
79	Congo DR	528
80	Kenya	525
81	Algeria	521
82	Estonia	518
83	Wales	517
84	Canada	513
85	United Arab Emirates	508
86	Scotland	504
87	Albania	499
87	Haiti	499
89	Korea DPR	498
90	Guinea	496
91	Burkina Faso	489

International Results

World Cup 2006 Qualifiers

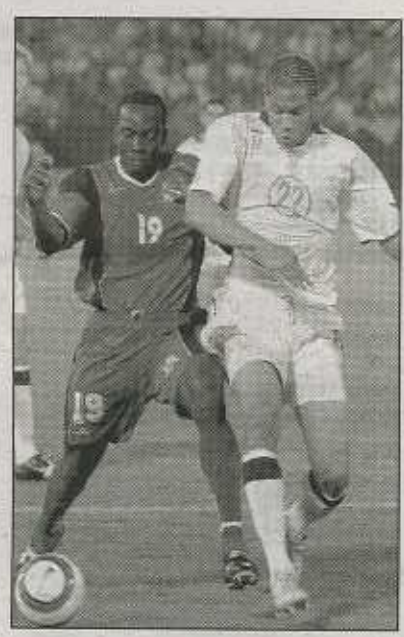
Europe Group 1
Rep. of Macedonia 0 - 3 Finland
Romania 2 - 0 Andorra

Group 2
Kazakhstan 1 - 2 Georgia

Group 3
Latvia 1 - 1 Russia
Liechtenstein 0 - 0 Slovakia

Group 4
Faroe Islands 0 - 3 Cyprus

CONCACAF (Final Group Stage)



USA's Oguchi Onyewu (right) battles with Trinidad and Tobago star Dwight Yorke (right)

United States 1 - 0 Trinidad & Tobago
Guatemala 2 - 1 Panama
Mexico 2 - 0 Costa Rica

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Mexico	6	5	1	0	11	3	16
USA	6	5	0	1	12	3	15
Guatemala	6	2	1	3	9	9	7
Costa Rica	6	2	1	3	6	10	7
Trinidad and Tobago	6	1	1	4	4	10	4
Panama	6	0	2	4	3	10	2

AFRICAN ZONE

Group 3
Sudan 1 - 0 Benin

Group 5
Tunisia 1 - 0 Kenya

ASIAN ZONE

Group 1
Korea Republic 0 - 1 Saudi Arabia
Uzbekistan 3 - 2 Kuwait

Group 2
Japan 2 - 1 Iran
Bahrain 2 - 3 North Korea

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Saudi Arabia	6	4	2	0	10	1	14
Korea Republic	6	3	1	2	9	5	10
Uzbekistan	6	1	2	3	7	11	5
Kuwait	6	1	1	4	4	13	4

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Japan	6	5	0	1	9	4	15
Iran	6	4	1	1	7	3	13
Bahrain	6	1	1	4	4	7	4
Korea DPR	6	1	0	5	5	11	3

Internationals - Friendly

DR Congo 3 - 1 Guinea
Albania 2 - 1 Azerbaijan
Angola 2 - 1 Cape Verde
Jordan 0 - 0 Armenia
Libya 0 - 1 Nigeria
Ukraine 2 - 1 Serbia & Montenegro
Hungary 1 - 2 Argentina
Estonia 1 - 0 Bosnia-Herzegovina
Bulgaria 3 - 1 Turkey
Morocco 0 - 1 Togo
Norway 0 - 2 Switzerland
Lithuania 1 - 0 Belarus
Malta 1 - 1 Northern Ireland
Poland 3 - 2 Israel
Denmark 4 - 1 England
Belgium 2 - 0 Greece
Sweden 2 - 1 Czech Republic
Austria 2 - 2 Scotland
Holland 2 - 2 Germany
Ireland 1 - 2 Italy
Senegal 0 - 0 Ghana
Wales 0 - 0 Slovenia
France 3 - 0 Ivory Coast
Croatia 1 - 1 Brazil
Iceland 4 - 1 South Africa
Spain 2 - 0 Uruguay
Portugal 2 - 0 Egypt
Ecuador 3 - 1 Venezuela
Peru 3 - 1 Chile

World Cup Qualifying Fixturers

September 3 - 2005

Libya - Sudan
Bolivia - Ecuador
Paraguay - Argentina
Venezuela - Peru
Zambia - Senegal
Mali - Congo
Burkina Faso - South Africa
Kenya - Tunisia
Morocco - Botswana
Romania - Czech Republic
Armenia - Netherlands
Andorra - Finland
Russia - Liechtenstein
Portugal - Luxembourg
Estonia - Latvia
Scotland - Italy
Slovenia - Norway
Moldova - Belarus
Wales - England
Poland - Austria
Northern Ireland - Azerbaijan
Serbia and Montenegro - Lithuania
Bosnia-Herzegovina - Belgium
Hungary - Malta

FIFA WORLD RANKINGS

(August 2005)

92	FYR Macedonia	488
92	Lithuania	488
94	Iceland	486
95	Thailand	485
96	Syria	481
97	Indonesia	478
98	Gabon	476
99	Singapore	474
100	Bolivia	473
101	Botswana	472
102	Sudan	467
103	Georgia	460
104	Rwanda	457
105	Cyprus	443
106	Vietnam	441
107	Turkmenistan	437
108	Malawi	434
109	New Zealand	431
110	Uganda	423
111	Congo	417
111	Malaysia	417
113	Lebanon	414
113	Moldova	414
115	El Salvador	412
116	Northern Ireland	410
116	Azerbaijan	410
118	St. Lucia	405
119	Hong Kong	391
120	Barbados	390
120	Armenia	390
122	St. Kitts and Nevis	381
123	Cape Verde Islands	379
124	Yemen	376
125	Benin	362
126	Faroe Islands	360
127	Ethiopia	359
128	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	358
129	Swaziland	354
130	Mozambique	352
130	Liberia	352
132	India	350
133	Palestine	349
134	Andorra	346
135	Tahiti	345
136	Solomon Islands	339
137	Fiji	338
138	Malta	334
139	Liechtenstein	331
140	Sri Lanka	325
141	Tajikistan	321
142	Maldives	320
143	Burundi	313
144	Mauritius	311
144	Myanmar	311
146	Lesotho	305
147	Vanuatu	299
148	Kazakhstan	296
149	Grenada	288
150	Madagascar	280
151	Surinam	275
152	Kyrgyzstan	268
153	Chinese Taipei	260
154	Antigua and Barbuda	253
155	Luxembourg	252
156	Nicaragua	244
157	Bermuda	240
157	Chad	240
159	Namibia	237
160	Gambia	236
161	San Marino	229
162	Sierra Leone	218
163	Laos	217
164	British Virgin Islands	214
165	Papua New Guinea	213
166	Netherlands Antilles	205
167	Dominica	197
168	Bangladesh	195
169	Eritrea	186
169	Pakistan	186
171	Equatorial Guinea	182
172	Dominican Republic	178
173	Tanzania	167
174	Seychelles	166
175	Niger	162
176	Mauritania	157
177	Cayman Islands	154
178	Samoa	151
178	Nepal	151
180	Belize	141

English Premier League

BIRMINGHAM CITY 1
MANCHESTER CITY 2

Two former England players combined for Manchester City's winner two minutes after the interval when striker Andy Cole netted winger Trevor Sinclair's right-wing cross at the far post.

Birmingham took an early lead when Uruguayan striker Walter Pandiani headed down a Julian Gray cross and ex-Manchester United midfielder Nicky Butt shot home.

Joey Barton equalised for the visitors in a counter-attack midway through the first half.

BLACKBURN ROVERS ...2
FULHAM 1

Striker Morten Gamst Pedersen put Fulham ahead in the 15th minute from Shefki Kuqi's cross from the right wing.

U.S. striker Brian McBride equalised four minutes into the second half from Niclas Jensen's left cross but Tugay restored Fulham's lead when he volleyed Pedersen's corner home.

CHARLTON 1
WIGAN 0

Charlton went joint top on six points with Tottenham Hotspur and Manchester United, though second on goal difference.

New signing Darren Bent scored his third goal in two games three minutes before halftime, heading home Danny Murphy's right cross to give Charlton their second successive victory.

LIVERPOOL 1
SUNDERLAND 0

Midfielder Xabi Alonso struck the winner after 24 minutes, steering a 25-metre free kick inside the top right corner after a foul on Boudewijn Zenden.

Sunderland were reduced to 10 men a quarter of an hour from time when Andy Welsh was sent off for violent conduct.

MANCHESTER UTD 1
ASTON VILLA 0

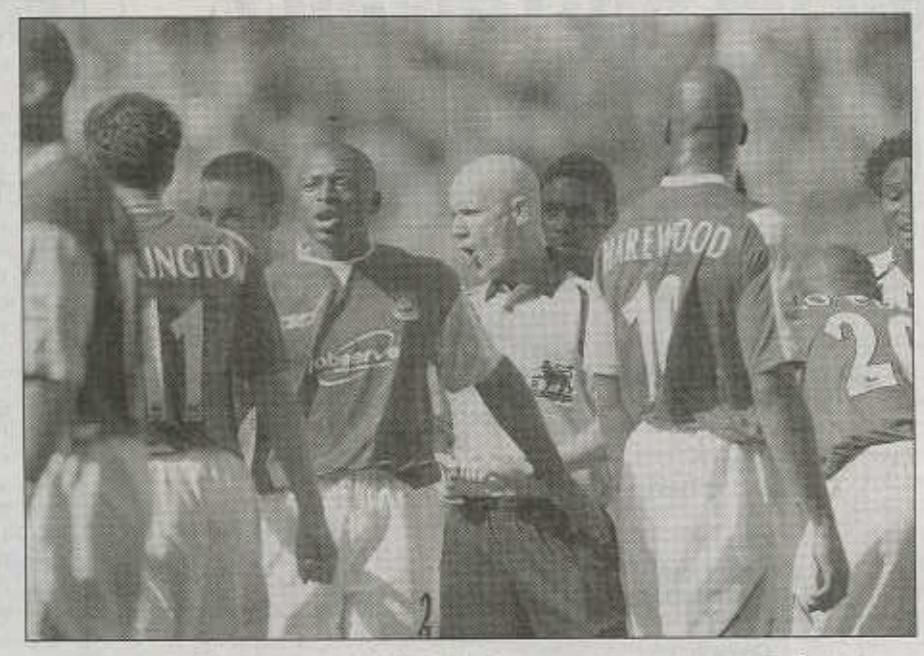
United were comfortable winners of a match where only one team were realistically trying to score.

Villa's defensive approach was undone after 66 minutes when Ruud van Nistelrooy latched on to a Cristiano Ronaldo cross to tap in the only goal and extend United's 22-year unbeaten home record against the Midlanders.

NEWCASTLE UTD 0
WEST HAM 0

Alan Shearer's Newcastle have yet to get off the mark after two games.

West Ham were down to 10 men for the last 36 minutes after a dismissal that surprised most observers when Paul Konchesky was sent off for a tackle on midfielder Jermaine Jenas in which he appeared to win the ball cleanly.



West Ham players surround referee Dermot Gallagher, after the takle on Jermaine Jenas of Newcastle which led to the red card for Hammers player Paul Konchesky

TOTTENHAM 2
MIDDLESBROUGH 0

Spurs went top with their second consecutive 2-0 win for a perfect record of six points and no goals conceded.

England's Jermain Defoe struck shortly after start of the second half with a rasping shot into the roof of the net from 25 metres.

Mido increased Spurs' lead in 75th minute when keeper Mark Schwarzer failed to prevent his weak shot going in under his body from Defoe's pass.

WEST BROMWICH 2
PORTSMOUTH 1

Geoff Horsfield scored twice to give West Brom victory, opening his account after only two minutes with a header from Jonathan Greening's left cross and adding his second just before the hour.

Former Newcastle United winger Laurent Robert pulled one back in the 63rd with a trademark left-footed free kick that found the top corner of the net.

BOLTON 0
EVERTON 1

Everton withstood an early barrage from Bolton before clinching their first points of the season.

Marcus Bent snapped up a half chance from Tim Cahill's cross after 52 minutes to leave Bolton with just one point to show from their opening two games.

The closest the home side came was an El Hadji Diouf shot that shook the crossbar.

CHELSEA 1
ARSENAL 0

The champions made it two wins out of two after a disappointing encounter at Stamford Bridge. It was their first league win over Arsenal for 10 years.

Thierry Henry snatched at a couple of half chances for the visitors before second-half substitute Didier Drogba earned the home side the victory after 73 minutes, bundling in Frank Lampard's free kick with his knee.

Chelsea introduced new 38 million euro record signing Michael Essien for the last half an hour, while Shaun Wright-Phillips also got a run out as a substitute to underline Chelsea's strength in depth.

Didier Drogba celebrates the goal that sunk Arsenal at Stamford Bridge

New Tottenham recruit Edgar Davids attempts a bicycle kick as Middlesborough players look on

FIXTURES

Saturday 26th August

Aston Villa	v	Blackburn
Manchester City	v	Portsmouth
Tottenham	v	Chelsea
West Bromwich	v	Birmingham
West Ham	v	Bolton
Wigan	v	Sunderland
Liverpool	v	Arsenal

Sunday 27th August

Fulham	v	Everton
Middlesbrough	v	Charlton

Monday 28th August

Newcastle	v	Manchester United

PREMIER LEAGUE

Birmingham 1 Manchester City 2, Blackburn 2 Fulham 1, Charlton 1 Wigan 0, Liverpool 1 Sunderland 0, Manchester Utd 1 Aston Villa 0, Newcastle 0 West Ham 0, Tottenham 2 Middlesbrough 0, West Bromwich 2 Portsmouth 1, Bolton 0 Everton 1, Chelsea 1 Arsenal 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tottenham	**2**	**2**	**0**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**6**
Charlton	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Man Utd	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Chelsea	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
West Ham	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Man City	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
West Brom	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Liverpool	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Arsenal	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Blackburn	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Everton	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Aston Villa	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Bolton	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Birmingham	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Fulham	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Middlesbrough	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Newcastle	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Wigan	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
Portsmouth	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Sunderland	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Football League Championship

Coventry 1 QPR 0, Crewe 2 Leicester 2, Crystal Palace 1 Plymouth 0, Derby 2 Cardiff 1, Hull 2 Brighton 0, Ipswich 2 Sheffield Wed 1, Leeds Utd 2 Wolverhampton 0, Reading 5 Millwall 0, Sheffield Utd 2 Preston 1, Southampton 1 Norwich 0, Stoke 2 Luton 1, Watford 3 Burnley 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Reading	**4**	**3**	**0**	**1**	**11**	**2**	**9**
Sheffield Utd	4	3	0	1	9	5	9
Derby	4	2	2	0	6	3	8
Watford	4	2	1	1	10	7	7
Leeds	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Luton	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Ipswich	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Southampton	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Stoke	4	2	1	1	5	5	7
Wolverhampton	4	2	1	1	3	3	7
QPR	4	2	1	1	4	5	7
Crewe	4	1	3	0	7	6	6
Hull	4	1	2	1	3	2	5
Leicester	4	1	2	1	7	8	5
Coventry	4	1	2	1	4	5	5
Crystal Palace	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Plymouth	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
Preston	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
Burnley	4	1	0	3	7	7	3
Norwich	4	0	3	1	3	4	3
Cardiff	4	1	0	3	4	7	3
Sheffield Wed	4	0	2	2	2	4	2
Brighton	4	0	2	2	3	7	2
Millwall	4	0	1	3	1	8	1

Barnsley 1 Yeovil 0, Blackpool 0 Swindon 0, Brentford 2 Tranmere 0, Bristol City 4 Port Vale 2, Gillingham 1 Bournemouth 0, Hartlepool 1 Walsall 1, Milton Keynes 1 Colchester 1, Notts Forest 0 Scunthorpe 1, Oldham 4 Chesterfield 1, Rotherham 1 Bradford 1, Southend 1 Huddersfield 1, Swansea 1 Doncaster 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brentford	**4**	**3**	**0**	**1**	**7**	**2**	**9**
Oldham	4	3	0	1	9	7	9
Walsall	4	2	2	0	8	6	8
Gillingham	4	2	2	0	4	2	8
Huddersfield	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Bradford	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Port Vale	4	2	1	1	5	5	7
Scunthorpe	4	2	1	1	4	4	7
Barnsley	4	2	0	2	4	3	6
Swansea	4	2	0	2	5	6	6
Southend	4	1	2	1	6	5	5
Bournemouth	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
Doncaster	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
Rotherham	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
Hartlepool	4	1	2	1	3	4	5
Tranmere	4	1	1	2	6	5	4
Bristol City	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Colchester	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Swindon	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
Nottm Forest	4	1	0	3	5	7	3
Blackpool	4	0	3	1	4	6	3
Milton Keynes Dons	4	0	3	1	4	6	3
Chesterfield	4	1	0	3	5	9	3
Yeovil	4	0	2	2	1	4	2

***For Tables and results for Football League Two and Nationwide Conference turn to page 31**

EUROPE

TABLES AND RESULTS

What's on the Box

August

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Thu 25 Aug
Blackburn v Tottenham 4.55 am

Sat 27 Aug
WBA v Birmingham 11.00 pm (HIGHLIGHTS)
Tottenham v Chelsea 11.55 pm

Sun 28 Aug
Fulham v Everton 2.00 am DELAY)
Middlesbrough v Charlton 11.25 pm (JOIN IN PROGRESS)

Mon 29 Aug
Newcastle v Man United 12.55 am

A-LEAGUE

Aug 26
Newcastle v Adelaide 7.30 pm
Perth v Central Coast 10.00 pm

Aug 28
Queensland v New Zealand 3.00 pm
Sydney v Melbourne 5.00 pm

UEFA SUPER CUP

Saturday 27 August
Liverpool v CSKA 4.40 am

MAGAZINE SHOWS

Aug 25
Total Football 8.00 pm

Aug 27 EPL:
Weekend Preview Show 10.00 am

Aug 29 EPL:
Highlights Show 6.00pm, 9.00 pm

Aug 30
A-League Highlights Show 7.30 pm

All games LIVE unless stated
All times AEST
Only shown on FoxSports
(Channels 11 - 12 and ESPN 13)

BELGIAN JUPILER LEAGUE

Gent 1 Cercle 0, Zulte-Waregem 0 La Louviere 0, Beveren 4 Lierse 1, Club Brugge 1 Roeselare 0, Charleroi 1 Excelsior 0, Westerlo 1 Genk 1, Anderlecht 3 Germinal Beerschot 1, Lokeren 1 Brussels 0, Standard Liege 2 Sint-Truiden 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1.Anderlecht	3	3	0	0	11	1	9
2.Standard	3	3	0	0	7	2	9
3. Club Brugge	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
4. Lokeren	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
5. Westerlo	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
6. Charleroi	3	2	1	0	3	0	7
7. Waregem	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
8. FC Brussels	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
9. AA Gent	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
10. Beveren	3	1	0	2	4	4	3
11. Genk	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
12. Roeselare	3	1	0	2	1	2	3
13. Sint-Truiden	3	1	0	2	1	3	3
14. Lierse SK	3	1	0	2	3	7	3
15. Louviere	3	0	2	1	1	7	2
16. G.B.A.	3	0	0	3	1	6	0
17. Cercle	3	0	0	3	0	5	0
18. Excelsior M	3	0	0	3	0	5	0

CROATIAN FIRST DIVISION

Kamen 2 Osijek 0, Medimurje 0 Zagreb 0, Pula 2 Hajduk 0, Cibalia 1 Slaven 0, Dinamo Zagreb 1 Varteks 0, Rijeka 0 Inter 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Dinamo	5	4	0	1	16	2	12
2. Varteks	5	4	0	1	10	3	12
3. Hajduk	5	3	0	2	11	5	9
4. Rijeka	5	2	2	1	8	8	8
5. Kamen	5	2	1	2	6	5	7
6. Zagreb	5	2	1	2	6	6	7
7. Inter	5	2	1	2	4	8	7
8. Osijek	5	2	0	3	2	9	6
9. Cibalia	5	2	0	3	3	12	6
10. Pula SC	5	1	2	2	5	7	5
11. Medimurje	5	1	1	3	5	6	4
12. Slaven	5	0	2	3	3	8	2

DUTCH EREDIVISE

Heerenveen 5 Roda JC 4, RBC Roosendaal 0 Ajax 2, NAC Breda 1 Willem II 0, Twente 0 NEC Nijmegen 1, ADO Den Haag 1 Heracles 2, Utrecht 1 AZ Alkmaar 2, Sparta 1 Feyenoord 3, PSV Eindhoven 2 Vitesse 1, RKC Waalwijk 2 Groningen 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. AZ	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
2. Feyenoord	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
3. RKC	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
4. Heerenveen	2	1	1	0	7	6	4
5. Heracles	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
6. PSV	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
7. NEC	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
8. Ajax	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
9. Roda JC	2	1	0	1	6	5	3
10.Groningen	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
11. NAC	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
12. Vitesse	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
13. FC Utrecht	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
14. Den Haag	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
15. Willem II	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
16. FC Twente	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
17. RBC	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
18. Sparta	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

FRENCH LIGUE 1

Ajaccio 0 Le Mans 0, Bordeaux 1 Monaco 0, Lens 7 Auxerre 0, Lyon 1 Nancy 0, Metz 0 Strasbourg 0, Nice 1 Nantes 1, Rennes 3 Marseille 2, Sochaux 0 Lille 0, Toulouse 1 Saint Etienne 1, Troyes 1 Paris St Germain 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Paris SG	4	3	1	0	8	2	10
2. Lyon	4	3	1	0	5	2	10
3. Lens	4	3	0	1	11	3	9
4. Bordeaux	4	3	0	1	4	1	9
5. Nantes	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
6. Auxerre	4	2	1	1	3	7	7
7. Ajaccio	4	1	3	0	5	3	6
8. St Etienne	4	1	3	0	3	1	6
9. Troyes	4	1	3	0	4	3	6
10. Monaco	4	2	0	2	3	4	6
11. Le Mans	4	1	2	1	5	2	5
12. Nice	4	1	2	1	5	4	5
13. Lille	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
14. Sochaux	4	1	1	2	2	3	4
15. Toulouse	4	1	1	2	2	5	4
16. Rennes	4	1	0	3	3	10	3
17. Strasbourg	4	0	2	2	1	3	2
18. Metz	4	0	2	2	1	6	2
19. Marseille	4	0	1	3	3	8	1
20. Nancy	4	0	0	4	1	5	0

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

No German fixtures due to German Cup St. Pauli 3 - 2 Burghausen, Ingolstadt 1 - 1 Saarbrucken *, Regensburg 1 - 3 Alemannia Aachen, Eintracht Trier 0 - 3 Kaiserslautern, FC 08 Villingen 2 - 5 Hansa Rostock, Kickers Offenbach 3 - 1 1. FC Cologne, Paderborn 0 - 2 Wolfsburg, RW Erfurt II 0 - 8 Bayer Leverkusen, Stuttgarter Kickers 1 - 5 Hamburger SV, TeBe Berlin 0 - 6 Bochum, Wattenscheid 1 - 3 Werder Bremen, Bremerhaven 0 - 3 Schalke, Koblenz 2 - 3 Hertha BSC, Hoffenheim 3 - 4 Stuttgart, Leipzig 1 - 1 Dynamo Dresden, Osnabruck * 2 - 2 Greuther Furth, Siegen 0 - 1 Freiburg, Eschborn 0 - 4 Nurnberg, Hansa Rostock II 0 - 3 Mainz, Kutzhof 0 - 3 Monchengladbach, Magdeburg 0 - 3 Arminia Bielefeld, Neuruppin 0 - 4 Bayern Munich, Wolfsburg (Am) 0 - 1 Duisburg

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Bayern	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
2Bremen	2	2	0	0	7	2	6
3Hamburg	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
4Cologne	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
5Schalke	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
6Hertha	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
7Kaiserslautern	2	1	0	1	6	5	3
8Leverkusen	2	1	0	1	6	6	3
9Hannover	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
10Wolfsburg	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
11Dortmund	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
12Stuttgart	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
13Duisburg	2	0	1	1	4	6	1
14Borussia M	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
15Nurnberg	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
16Mainz	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
17Arminia	2	0	0	2	2	7	0
18Eintracht	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

ENGLISH FOOTBALL LEAGUE 2

Barnet 1 Macclesfield 0, Cheltenham 3 Boston Utd 0, Grimsby 0 Darlington 1, Leyton Orient 1 Rochdale 4, Lincoln City 2 Oxford Utd 1, Peterborough 2 Mansfield 0, Rushden & Diamonds 1 Chester 1, Shrewsbury 1 Northampton 1, Stockport 1 Notts County 1, Torquay 2 Bristol Rovers 3, Wrexham 0 Carlisle 1, Wycombe 4 Bury 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barnet	4	3	1	0	7	3	10
Leyton Orient	4	3	0	1	6	6	9
Wycombe	4	2	2	0	9	4	8
Cheltenham	4	2	2	0	8	4	8
Notts County	4	2	2	0	4	2	8
Rochdale	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
Darlington	4	2	1	1	4	2	7
Carlisle	4	2	1	1	4	4	7
Peterborough	4	2	0	2	5	4	6
Chester	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Rushden	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Lincoln City	4	1	2	1	6	6	5
Oxford Utd	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Mansfield	4	1	1	2	5	5	4
Grimsby	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Wrexham	4	1	1	2	2	2	4
Bristol Rovers	4	1	1	2	7	8	4
Northampton	4	0	3	1	3	4	3
Stockport	4	0	3	1	5	7	3
Bury	4	1	0	3	4	8	3
Shrewsbury	4	0	2	2	2	5	2
Boston Utd	4	0	2	2	3	8	2
Macclesfield	3	0	1	2	3	5	1
Torquay	4	0	1	3	2	7	1

ENGLISH NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE

Altrincham 2 Forest Green 1, Cambridge Utd 3 Accrington 1, Canvey Island 1 Gravesend 2, Crawley 0 Hereford 2, Exeter 2 Morecambe 0, Grays 1 York 1, Halifax 1 Aldershot 1, Scarborough 1 Kidderminster 1, Southport 3 Stevenage 2, Tamworth 2 Dagenham 2, Woking 2 Burton 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hereford	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Exeter	3	3	0	0	5	0	9
Hereford	3	2	0	1	7	2	6
Cambridge U	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Accrington	3	2	0	1	3	3	6
Morecambe	3	2	0	1	2	2	6
Grays Athletic	3	1	2	0	8	3	5
York	3	1	2	0	5	2	5
Dag & Red	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
Tamworth	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Woking	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Kidderminster	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Forest Green	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Halifax	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Stevenage	3	1	0	2	7	6	3
Canvey Island	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Altrincham	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
Southport	3	1	0	2	5	9	3
Gravesend	3	1	0	2	3	9	3
Burton Albion	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Crawley Town	3	0	2	1	0	2	2
Aldershot	3	0	1	2	2	5	1
Scarborough	3	0	1	2	1	6	

PORTUGUSE SUPER LIGA

Sporting Lisbon 2 Belenenses 1, Boavista 0 Setubal 0, Academica 0 Benfica 0, Pacos 0 Nacional 1, Gil Vicente 1 Maritimo 0, Guimaraes 0 Naval 2, Penafiel 0 Rio Ave 2, Porto 1 Estrela 0,

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Naval	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
2. Rio Ave	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
3. Sporting CP	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
4. Gil Vicente	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
5. Nacional	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
6. Porto	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
7. Academica	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
8. Benfica	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
9. Boavista	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
10. Setubal	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
11. Sp.Braga	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12. Leiria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13. Belenenses	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
14. Estrela	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
15. Maritimo	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
16. Paços	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
17. Guimaraes	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
18. Penafiel	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Rangers 3 Celtic 1, Falkirk 0 Hibernian 2, Hearts 2 Aberdeen 0, Inverness CT 2 Kilmarnock 2, Livingston 1 Dunfermline 1, Motherwell 4 Dundee Utd 5.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hearts	4	4	0	0	13	2	12
Rangers	4	3	0	1	9	4	9
Celtic	4	2	1	1	10	8	7
Kilmarnock	4	2	1	1	10	8	7
Inverness CT	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
Hibernian	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Aberdeen	4	1	1	2	5	7	4
Motherwell	4	1	1	2	10	13	4
Dundee Utd	4	1	1	2	6	10	4
Falkirk	4	1	0	3	3	7	3
Dunfermline	4	0	2	2	2	4	2
Livingston	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

TURKISH FIRST DIVISION

Denizlispor 1 Kayserispor 3, Genclerbirligi 0 Besiktas 2, Trabzonspor 3 Ankaragucu 1, Samsunspor 1 Sivasspor 2, Diyarbakirspor 1 Ankaraspor 2, Erciyesspor 0 Konyaspor 0, Galatasaray 5 Malatyaspor 2, Rizespor 1 Fenerbahce 2, Manisaspor 1 Gaziantepspor 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Galatasaray	3	3	0	0	8	3	9
2. Besiktas	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
3. Trabzonspor	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
4. Gaziantspor	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
5. Fenerbahçe	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
6. Ankaraspor	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
7. Erciyesspor	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
8. Sivasspor	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
9. Manisaspor	3	1	1	1	8	4	4
10. Diyakirspor	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
11. Kayserispor	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
12. Samsunspor	3	1	0	2	5	6	3
13. Konyaspor	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
14. Genrbirligi	3	0	2	1	0	2	2
15. Ankaragucu	3	0	1	2	3	6	1
16. Denizlispor	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
17. Malatyaspor	3	0	1	2	3	11	1
18. Rizespor	3	0	0	3	2	5	0

UEFA Champions League 3rd round 2nd leg fixtures

Monaco v Real Betis (0-1)
Panathinaikos v Wisla Krakow (1-3)
Club Brugge v Valerenga (0-1)
Rangers v Anorthosis (2-1)
Debrecen v Manchester United (0-3)
Villarreal v Everton (2-1)
Udinese v Sporting Lisbon (1-0)
Thun v Malmo (1-0)
Partizan v Artmedia (0-0)
Rosenborg v Steaua Bucharest (1-1)
Lokomotiv Moscow v Rapid Vienna (1-1)
Liverpool v CSKA Sofia (3-1)
Slavia Prague v Anderlecht (1-2)
Ajax v Brondby (2-2)
Weder Bremen v Basel (1-2)
Inter Milan v Shakhtar Donetsk (2-0)

*Second-leg matches: 23/24 August

UEFA Intertoto Cup Final fixtures 2nd leg

Valencia (ESP) vs Hamburg (GER) (0-1)
Lens (FRA) vs Cluj (ROM) (1-1)
Marseille (FRA) vs Deportivo (ESP) (0-2)

To be played on the 23rd August

Winners enter UEFA Cup first round on 15/29 September

Italy - Coppa Italia

Cittadella 3 - 2 Livorno, Empoli 1 - 1 Parma, Parma win on pen, Pen. Manfredonia 2 - 2 Cagliari, Cagliari win on pen. Pavia 0 - 0 Bari *, Siena 0 - 4 Atalanta, Napoli 1 - 0 Piacenza

Italian Super Cup
Inter Milan 1 defeated Juventus 0

SOCCER

A-LEAGUE FIXTURES 2005-2006

"Its Football, but not as you know it"

ROUND 1

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Friday August 26	Perth Glory FC	Central Coast Mariners FC	8:00pm	Members Equity Stadium
Friday August 26	Newcastle Jets FC	Adelaide United FC	8:00pm	Energy Australia Stadium
Sunday August 28	Queensland Roar FC	New Zealand Knights FC	3:00pm	Suncorp Stadium
Sunday August 28	Sydney FC	Melbourne Victory FC	5:00pm	Aussie Stadium

ROUND 2

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Friday September 2	Adelaide United FC	Queensland Roar FC	7:30pm	Hindmarsh Stadium
Friday September 2	New Zealand Knights FC	Sydney FC	8:00pm	North Harbour Stadium
Sunday September 4	Central Coast Mariners FC	Newcastle Jets FC	3:00pm	Central Coast Stadium
Sunday September 4	Melbourne Victory FC	Perth Glory FC	5:00pm	Olympic Park

ROUND 3

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Friday September 9	Adelaide United FC	Melbourne Victory FC	7:30pm	Hindmarsh Stadium
Saturday September 10	Perth Glory FC	Queensland Roar FC	7.35pm	Members Equity Stadium
Saturday September 10	Central Coast Mariners FC	New Zealand Knights FC	7:35pm	Central Coast Stadium
Sunday September 11	Newcastle Jets FC	Sydney FC	5:00pm	Energy Australia

ROUND 4

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Friday September 16	Sydney FC	Central Coast Mariners FC	8:00pm	Aussie Stadium
Saturday September 17	Perth Glory FC	Adelaide United FC	7:35pm	Members Equity Stadium
Sunday September 18	Queensland Roar FC	Melbourne Victory FC	3:00pm	Suncorp Stadium
Sunday September 18	Newcastle Jets FC	New Zealand Knights FC	5:00pm	Energy Australia Stadium

ROUND 5

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Thursday September 22	New Zealand Knights FC	Perth Glory FC	8:00pm	North Harbour Stadium
Friday September 23	Queensland Roar FC	Sydney FC	8:00pm	Suncorp Stadium
Sunday September 25	Adelaide United FC	Central Coast Mariners FC	7:05pm	Hindmarsh Stadium
Sunday September 25	Melbourne Victory FC	Newcastle Jets FC	5:00pm	Olympic Park

ROUND 6

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Friday September 30	Central Coast Mariners FC	Melbourne Victory FC	8:00pm	Central Coast Stadium
Saturday October 1	Newcastle Jets FC	Queensland Roar	7:35pm	Energy Australia Stadium
Saturday October 1	Perth Glory FC	Sydney FC	7:35pm	Members Equity Stadium
Sunday October 2	New Zealand Knights FC	Adelaide United FC	6:00pm	North Harbour Stadium

ROUND 7

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Friday October 7	Queensland Roar FC	Central Coast Mariners FC	8:00pm	Suncorp Stadium
Saturday October 8	Newcastle Jets FC	Perth Glory FC	7:35pm	Energy Australia Stadium
Sunday October 9	Sydney FC	Adelaide United FC	5:00pm	Aussie Stadium
Monday October 10	Melbourne Victory FC	New Zealand Knights FC	7:00pm	Olympic Park

ROUND 8

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Friday October 14	Adelaide United FC	Newcastle Jets FC	7:30pm	Hindmarsh Stadium
Sunday October 16	Melbourne Victory FC	Sydney FC	1:00pm	Olympic Park
Sunday October 16	Central Coast Mariners FC	Perth Glory FC	5:00pm	Central Coast Stadium
Sunday October 16	New Zealand Knights FC	Queensland Roar FC	6:00pm	North Harbour Stadium

ROUND 9

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Friday October 21	Sydney FC	New Zealand Knights FC	8:00pm	Aussie Stadium
Saturday October 22	Queensland Roar FC	Adelaide United FC	7:35pm	Suncorp Stadium
Sunday October 23	Newcastle Jets FC	Central Coast Mariners FC	5:00pm	Energy Australia Stadium
Sunday October 23	Perth Glory FC	Melbourne Victory FC	5:00pm	Members Equity Stadium

ROUND 10

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Friday October 28	Melbourne Victory FC	Adelaide United FC	8:00pm	Olympic Park
Saturday October 29	Queensland Roar FC	Perth Glory FC	7:35pm	Suncorp Stadium
Saturday October 29	New Zealand Knights FC	Central Coast Mariners	8:00pm	North Harbour Stadium
Sunday October 30	Sydney FC	Newcastle Jets FC	5:00pm	Aussie Stadium

ROUND 11

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Friday November 4	New Zealand Knights FC	Newcastle Jets FC	8:00pm	North Harbour Stadium
Friday November 4	Melbourne Victory FC	Queensland Roar FC	8:00pm	Olympic Park
Saturday November 5	Central Coast Mariners FC	Sydney FC	8:00pm	Central Coast Stadium
Sunday November 6	Adelaide United FC	Perth Glory FC	4:30pm	Hindmarsh Stadium

ROUND 12

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Friday November 11	Perth Glory FC	New Zealand Knights Fc	7:00pm	Members Equity Stadium
Friday November 11	Melbourne Victory FC	Newcastle Jets FC	8:00pm	Olympic Park
Sunday November 13	Central Coast Mariners FC	Adelaide United FC	3:00pm	Central Coast Stadium
Sunday November 13	Sydney FC	Queensland Roar FC	5:00pm	Aussie Stadium

ROUND 13

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Friday November 18	Melbourne Victory FC	Central Coast Mariners FC	8:00pm	Olympic Park
Saturday November 19	Sydney FC	Perth Glory FC	8:00pm	Aussie Stadium
Sunday November 20	Adelaide United FC	New Zealand Knights FC	4:30pm	Hindmarsh Stadium
Sunday November 20	Queensland Roar FC	Newcastle Jets FC	6:00pm	Suncorp Stadium

ROUND 14

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Friday November 25	Perth Glory FC	Newcastle Jets FC	7:00pm	Members Equity Stadium
Friday November 25	Central Coast Mariners FC	Queensland Roar FC	8:00pm	Central Coast Stadium
Saturday November 26	New Zealand Knights FC	Melbourne Knights FC	8:00pm	North Harbour Stadium
Sunday November 27	Adelaide United FC	Sydney FC	4:30pm	Hindmarsh Stadium

ROUND 15

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Thursday December 1	Queensland Roar FC	New Zealand Knights FC	7:00pm	Suncorp Stadium
Friday December 2	Newcastle Jets FC	Adelaide United FC	8:00pm	Energy Australia Stadium
Saturday December 3	Sydney FC	Melbourne Victory FC	8:00pm	Aussie Stadium
Sunday December 4	Perth Glory FC	Central Coast Mariners FC	5:00pm	Members Equity Stadium

ROUND 16

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Thursday December 29	Melbourne Victory FC	Perth Glory FC	8:00pm	Olympic Park
Friday December 30	New Zealand Knights FC	Sydney FC	8:00pm	North Harbour Stadium
Saturday December 31	Central Coast Mariners FC	Newcastle Jets FC	8:00pm	Central Coast stadium
Sunday January 1	Adelaide United FC	Queensland Roar FC	6:30pm	Hindmarsh Stadium

ROUND 17

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Thursday January 5	Adelaide United FC	Melbourne Victory FC	7:30pm	Hindmarsh Stadium
Friday January 6	Sydney FC	Newcastle Jets FC	8:00pm	Aussie Stadium
Saturday January 7	Perth Glory FC	Queensland Roar FC	7:00pm	Members Equity Stadium
Sunday January 8	Central Coast Mariners FC	New Zealand Knights FC	5:00pm	Central Coast Stadium

ROUND 18

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Thursday January 12	Perth Glory FC	Adelaide United FC	7:00pm	Members Equity Stadium
Friday January 13	Newcastle Jets FC	New Zealand Knights FC	8:00pm	Energy Australia Stadium
Saturday January 14	Sydney FC	Central Coast Mariners FC	8:00pm	Aussie Stadium
Sunday January 15	Queensland Roar FC	Melbourne Victory FC	6:00pm	Suncorp Stadium

ROUND 19

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Thursday January 19	New Zealand Knights FC	Perth Glory FC	8:00pm	North Harbour Stadium
Friday January 20	Adelaide United FC	Central Coast Mariners FC	7:30pm	Hindmarsh Stadium
Saturday January 21	Queensland Roar FC	Sydney FC	7:00pm	Suncorp Stadium
Sunday January 22	Newcastle Jets FC	Melbourne Victory FC	5:00pm	Energy Australia Stadium

ROUND 20

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Thursday January 26	Newcastle Jets FC	Queensland Roar FC	8:00pm	Energy Australia Stadium
Friday January 27	Central Coast Mariners FC	Melbourne Victory FC	8:00pm	Central Coast Stadium
Saturday January 28	New Zealand Knights FC	Adelaide United FC	8:00pm	North Harbour Stadium
Sunday January 29	Perth Glory FC	Sydney FC	5:00pm	Members Equity Stadium

ROUND 21

Date	Team	Team	Time	Venue
Friday February 3	Sydney FC	Adelaide United FC	8:00pm	Aussie Stadium
Saturday February 4	Melbourne Victory FC	New Zealand Knights FC	6:00pm	Olympic Park
Saturday February 4	Queensland Roar FC	Central Coast Mariners FC	7:00pm	Suncorp Stadium
Sunday February 5	Newcastle Jets FC	Perth Glory FC	5:00pm	Energy Australia Stadium